

THE ZOIST.

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I. *Instances of Double States of Consciousness independent of Mesmerism.* Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

I HAD not seen much of mesmerism before I was certain that nothing occurs through it which does not occur in disease without it. The very highest phenomena of clairvoyance, even prescience of events unconnected with the party, occur without it; so that mesmerism is simply an artificial method of producing certain phenomena. In my pamphlet I stated:

“Dr. Hall should have known that *mesmerism produces no phenomenon that does not occur in nervous affections without mesmerism*, as I often stated in the theatre of University College Hospital; but that it does produce all the most wonderful phenomena of all affections of every portion of the nervous system; and that the torpor or somnambulism or sleep-waking, which it produces, is that which occurs in trances, as the deepest form of singular sleep, with very moderate cerebral activity, at one extreme, and that of persons in extatic delirium at the other, in which most of the faculties are very active, many perhaps far more active than when in the natural state, and only some faculties torpid, and these perhaps but partially torpid, so that, while the patient may be very talkative, clever, and facetious, he may be divested of his usual proper reserve and even of all sense of propriety and really be in a new waking state.”^a

I also detailed from the *London Philosophical Transactions*, for 1706, a remarkable and beautiful case of fits of idiopathic or unartificial sleep-waking in a young man, in which sleep predominated over activity, and which Sir Benjamin Brodie, in his discreditable ignorance of these affections of the nervous system, pronounced to be an evident imposture.^b The patient would sleep for months, sometimes taking food and relieving nature in his sleep, but insensible to the greatest violence. I related a similar instance which occurred to

^a p. 35. ^b pp. 38, 46.

Dr. Arnott and myself in a Spanish lady who had been thus afflicted at times for many years.^b These two were instances of sleep-waking with double consciousness; the patients being in a sleep generally profound, but sometimes with sufficient activity to do certain things, eat, drink, and evacuate; in all these actions voluntarily administering to themselves, but not remembering one of them when awake. I added:

"In some instances of this peculiar sleep, there is from time to time more activity than he shewed, so that persons walk, talk, write and work, nay, they may do some things better than when awake, though the sleep continue and they be insensible to mechanical injury, and snore; and in most instances, as in the present case, nothing is afterwards remembered, and the period passed in this sleep-waking state is as a separate existence."^c

A remarkable instance in a girl is detailed in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Transactions*, for 1822, and transferred to my *Physiology*, p. 368, in whom there was great activity.

"Dr. Devan read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in February, 1822, the history of a case, observed by Dr. Dyce of Aberdeen, in a girl, 16 years old, which lasted from 2nd March to 11th June, 1815. The first symptom was an uncommon propensity to fall asleep in the evenings. This was followed by the habit of talking in her sleep on those occasions. One evening she fell asleep in this manner; imagining herself an episcopal clergyman, she went through the ceremony of baptising three children, and gave an appropriate prayer. Her mistress shook her by the shoulders, on which she awoke, and appeared unconscious of everything, except that she had fallen asleep, of which she showed herself ashamed. She sometimes dressed herself and the children while in this state, or, as Miss L. called it, "dead sleep;" answered questions put to her in such a manner as to show that she understood the question; but the answers were often, though not always, incongruous. One day in this state she sat at breakfast, with perfect correctness, with her eyes shut. She afterwards awoke with the child on her knees, and wondered how she got on her clothes. Sometimes the cold air awakened her; at other times she was seized with the affection whilst walking out with the children. She sang a hymn delightfully in this state; and, from a comparison which Dr. Dyce had an opportunity of making, it appeared incomparably better done than she could accomplish when awake. In the meantime a still more singular and interesting symptom began to make its appearance. The circumstances which occurred during the paroxysm were completely forgotten by her when the paroxysms were over, but were perfectly remarked during subsequent paroxysms. Her mistress said, that when in this stupor, on subsequent occasions, she told her what was said to her on the evening when she baptised the children. A depraved fellow-servant,

^b p. 49.

^c Pamphlet, p. 42.

understanding that she wholly forgot every transaction that occurred during the fit, clandestinely introduced a young man into the house, who treated her with the utmost rudeness, whilst her fellow-servant stopped her mouth with the bed-clothes, and otherwise overpowered a vigorous resistance which was made by her even during the influence of her complaint. Next day she had not the slightest recollection even of that transaction; nor did any person interested in her welfare know of it for several days, till she was in one of her paroxysms, when she related the whole fact to her mother. Next Sunday she was taken to church by her mistress while the paroxysm was on her. She shed tears during the sermon, particularly during the account given of the execution of three young men at Edinburgh, who had described, in their dying declarations, the dangerous steps with which their career of vice and infamy took its commencement. When she returned home, she recovered in a quarter of an hour, was quite amazed at the questions put to her about the church sermon, and denied that she had been to any such place; but next night, on being taken ill, she mentioned that she had been at church, repeated the words of the text, and, in Dr. Dyce's hearing, gave an accurate account of the tragical narrative of the three young men, by which her feelings had been so powerfully affected.'"

A still more remarkable instance occurred lately in a little girl in America, and is printed by Dr. Belden, under the title of *An Account of Jane Rider, the Springfield Somnambulist*, a copy of which little book I deposited in the library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, as the members proved themselves so thoroughly ignorant of these subjects; and an abstract of it will be found in *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal*, No. 493.

One reason why medical men deny mesmerism is their very limited reading, so that they are not aware of the occurrence of certain diseases of the nervous system. The very occurrence of catalepsy has often been denied^d by authors, and I have heard it denied.

I shall now communicate some other cases of the kind, in order to lessen the difficulties of those who are staggered by mesmerism, prefacing them by an extract from my Pamphlet.

"Sometimes the coma is profound and little or no activity of brain is discernible; sometimes there is no coma but great activity of the mind, as a separate period of existence, the character or ways of the person being more or less different from those habitual, and entirely forgotten when the brain passes again into its natural state: and between these two extremes are endless gradations of activity in the various cerebral faculties. Sleep-waking is the most appropriate title, as it comprehends all actions that may be performed; though

^d See an extract from Dr. Copland's *Medical Dictionary* in *The Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 67. I entreat my readers to peruse the whole of the note.

the word *somnambulism* is often loosely employed, which strictly applies to those cases in which the patient walks. When the coma is profound the second term *waking* is hardly appropriate; and when there is no coma the first term *sleep* is hardly appropriate, and extatic delirium should rather be the designation. But, as a generic denomination, the expression *sleep-waking* is very convenient and characteristic. Extatic delirium was the wild, and, to a philosophic observer, deeply interesting, state in which the Okeys were usually seen when not in a profound coma or in their natural condition.

"This class of affections are most wonderful and absolutely rivet the attention of a thoughtful man: and their varieties are great and beautiful, though beautifully similar to each other. But too often medical men are lamentably ignorant of them, and, when they have an interesting case of this kind, regard it only as a strange piece of business, and are at a loss what to do, and so torment and physic the patient without mercy, and think no more about it; or perhaps, to save meditation, declare it was all imposition. The records of medicine supply a sufficient number: and, now that by mesmerism we know how to produce them artificially, no medical man is pardonable who does not make himself well acquainted with them. Ignorance of these wonderful spontaneous cases has caused much false and cruel accusation. I have known young children treated as liars, as naughty, as odd children, and youth and grown-up persons vilified as impostors, by their families and instructors, and chiefly by medical attendants, because they fell occasionally into a state of sleep-waking, of the modification termed extatic delirium, during which, though not strong enough to strike every one as delirium, their conduct differed from what was habitual and proper; or because, after an unsuspected paroxysm, one in which no extravagance had been committed, they denied all knowledge of what they were told they had said or done. An instance occurred of a gentleman so seized while in a box at the Theatre, and losing all knowledge of his situation and preparing to perform a private act, nothing of which he remembered when taken before a magistrate. A striking case of this kind has lately been seen by me in the Middlesex Hospital. Dr. Wilson, under whose care the patient was and who to his honour knows and boldly declares the truth of mesmerism, was from this knowledge able to recognise the case: but some uninformed and spiteful person about the Hospital wrote to the lady who kindly interests herself in the poor boy that his only complaint was temper, and a medical whisper has reached me that the case is an imposition. The boy, who, in his natural state, is very respectful and particular in his behaviour, is very regardless of both persons and places in his delirium, sings with great feeling, and recites with capital power of imitation, and eats most voraciously, and his writing is a great curiosity,—quite different from his habitual writing, and blotted all over. I unhesitatingly declare the case to be as real as the boy's existence, and should never have been tired of studying it."

This case I shall now describe, as written out by Dr. Wilson

for the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. But it was thought unworthy of a place in the *Transactions* of the Society and returned to Dr. Wilson, who kindly lent it to me with permission to publish it.

There was completely double consciousness; nothing of the diseased state being remembered in the natural, and the character being completely changed in the paroxysms.

I. "*Case of Double Consciousness in the Middlesex Hospital.*"

"R. Jones, aged 15, admitted into the Middlesex Hospital 2nd March, 1842, said to have been complaining of the head-ache for two or three days. He looks remarkably well.

"On the day he was admitted he met the nurse in the ward with a piece of bread in her hand, he took the bread from her without saying a word, and instantly ate it. He then went to the fire-place, sat down, took the key of the boiler cock, and let the hot water run on the floor of the ward. Then he was ordered to bed; but at dinner-time he got up, seized a patient's beef, and ate it in bed. About a quarter of an hour after this, he got out of bed again, took nine potatoes out of a bowl and ate them. At tea-time he had three slices of bread given to him with his tea. Having eaten these, he pounced upon three slices of the nurse's toast, returned to bed, and devoured them immediately. The next day he possessed himself of a man's dinner and ate it. After this, he was occasionally restrained to bed, to prevent a repetition of plunder. When not restrained, he was more watched, and the patients took more care of their food. Those who were not able to take care of their own allowances, the nurse took charge of.

"Butter, sugar, or anything eatable, he made off with, and despatched with equal facility.

"Though he was always on full diet, that never satisfied him when in the extraordinary state. Many of the patients gave him part of their allowance, and from those who could not eat much he obtained larger shares. When not occupied in eating or seeking for food, he generally slept night and day. It was with difficulty an answer could be obtained to any question put to him. This extraordinary state of appetite and sleep continued for three or four days, when he recovered his natural, or ordinary state of appetite, sleep, and consciousness. Then he had no recollection of anything he had done, nor of what had happened to him since his admission, neither had he any recollection of being brought to the hospital.

"The patients were all very much surprised at his altered state and behaviour. He was ready to assist or wait upon

any of them. He also assisted the nurse in carrying pails of water and filling the boiler. He now ate no more than other patients, and took no other person's food, conducting himself in all respects with the greatest propriety.

"In the extraordinary state he would assist no one, nor even help himself in any way, except in appropriating food, but called for the nurse on all occasions when he wanted any thing.

"He now says he has often been in 'a state of forgetfulness.' His mother says, the first time he fell into this state, he was at school in Westmoreland, when the boys said he had turned 'daft.'

"He remained in the hospital till the 4th of April, without shewing any departure from the ordinary state, and was then discharged.

"April 6th. Two days after being discharged, he was brought back by his mother. She said the boy was now again in his sleepy state, and that, whatever may happen to him, or whatever he may do or say, he retains no recollection of it when he comes to himself.

"He now persists in keeping his bed, and sleeps continually, and his appetite is voracious. For some days he seldom opened his eyes, but from time to time would get out of bed and prow about the ward, with heavy and only partially opened eyes, in search of food, and devoured what he could lay his hands on. This sleepy state continued to the 15th (a week after his re-admission), when he returned to his ordinary state, and was surprised to find himself again in the hospital. His mother had seen him on the 13th; but on his recovery, he told her that he had not seen her.

"He continued for some time longer in the ward, and ate and slept like other people, and without any deviation from his common consciousness. His spirits were good, and he looked in full health. Then he was discharged.

"Sept. 3rd. He was admitted for the third time. He had lately been employed in gardening. The day before he was brought to the hospital, he said he was going to be attacked as before. He is now stupid, very sleepy, and has a voracious appetite. One day I saw him seize a bowl of potato peelings, which he grasped by handfuls and devoured till the bowl was taken from him. For three or four days he continued to sleep almost constantly. Then he began to read the Bible in a very audible, distinct, and emphatic manner. Next he would sing psalms. These reading and singing fits continued at intervals for some days; but when not so occupied, he seemed indifferent to all around him, and went

off to sleep. He took notice of very few persons, but appeared to know some. The day nurse he always recognised when in this state, though he never appeared to know the night nurse. If he answered any one, it seemed with reluctance, and he then turned over, or covered his head under the bed clothes, and went off to sleep. This sleepy state continued till the 12th, when he began to fret, and tears flowed. He appeared as if he was coming to himself, for such a change had been noticed before when he was beginning to recover. His appetite was not long ravenous on this day. He at length said he felt well, but knew he had not been so.

"On Sept. 14th was quite himself again: as on all former occasions, he recollects nothing that happened while in the late state. But he recollects that, for two days before the change came over him (a fortnight ago) he felt an odd sensation and indistinct vision, particularly on first getting up; and that he then told those with whom he was living, that he was going to be unwell again.

"He continued quite well for a week longer, and then left the hospital to return to his occupation.

"Such are the details of a double state of consciousness, or existence,—if I may so call these alternating states—which I have thrice observed in the same individual and carefully noted down; limiting my remarks only to what occurred when he was under my care, and omitting all that I may have heard relative to his varying states when he was elsewhere, and having watched the case without attempting to ascertain if any other extraordinary conditions existed besides these which attracted the notice of every one. For instance, I refrained from trying if any of the external senses were more or less developed in the extraordinary than in the ordinary state. Neither was he questioned in the extraordinary state to ascertain if he remembered anything that had happened when he was before in his extraordinary state. For I wished to direct the attention of others to the prominent features already described, and not to ask them to examine into too much at once. I wished them only to observe, that each of the three times he was under my care, the same combination of changes alternated. Each time the extraordinary states of appetite, sleep and consciousness terminated together, and together the ordinary states returned as reason returned. Moreover I abstained from interfering with nature,—under such circumstances—so that he was left entirely to her 'sweet restorer, balmy sleep.'

"I shall for the present reserve my opinion of the case and the inferences I have drawn from it. My object being, in bringing it before the Society, to invite further examination

into similar cases, for I doubt not that others will be found, and then will be the more proper time for discussion."

Such was the history read to the Society at the beginning of 1843. In the course of a year the lad fell three times more into his sleep-waking; and on each occasion was placed in the hospital under Dr. Wilson, (1842, March 2, April 6, Sept. 3, Nov. 23, Dec. 27; 1843, July, 18,) six times altogether. I once saw him in his sleep-waking state. He was in the nurse's room in his night shirt, having just got out of bed. He was sitting in a chair, moving himself about, and singing with great feeling. He took no notice of me, but went on with his songs; and, on a gentleman sitting before him, put his foot uncereemoniously on the gentleman's knee, resting his elbow on his own knee, and still sang away. Whenever I spoke to him he answered me like a half-witted person, and shortly and carelessly, scarcely interrupting his singing. He rose and without any reserve employed a chamber utensil, singing all the while, and then restlessly walked about the room, and asked for something to eat. Dr. Wilson told me that he sometimes imitated exquisitely.

Dr. Wilson informs me that each attack of sleep-waking was attended by the extreme voracity; and that, at the end of long attacks, on returning to his ordinary state he found himself greatly increased in bulk, looking like an over-fat boy, with an abdominal protuberance like a young Bacchus; but that, as the natural state continued, he regained his usual appearance.

I am now mesmerising a lady, who, in her mesmeric sleep-waking, and then only, has a very great appetite: no doubt the parts of the brain called the organs of Alimentiveness being for some reason or other excited in the state, just as the organs of Imitation, Music, Attachment, &c., often are. The strong manifestation of a particular faculty that we often witness in insanity, delirium, and even in other diseases, is intelligible enough to the true cerebral physiologist, who knows that the brain is a congeries of organs.

After leaving the hospital the sixth time, he had no relapse or any ill health, and has called once or twice to express his gratitude, having grown into a fine, stout, healthy young man,—well-behaved and intelligent, and eating no more than other people,—and it being now four years since his first admission.

Each of the later attacks was less intensely characterized and of shorter duration, and the last intermission was the longest.

Dr. Wilson gave him *no physic*, and applied no local means: and admitted him every time into the hospital that he might escape beddoctering,—bleeding, cupping, leeching, blistering, mercurializing, drenching, narcotics, minerals, and the usual absurd, debilitating, or disgusting, worrying, and even torturing measures, to which he would to a certainty have been subjected if he had fallen into common hands, and to which most practitioners ignorantly and mercilessly subject all unfortunate patients who suffer with diseases they do not understand: and of the very character of the more extraordinary nervous diseases, nay, of the existence of the most extraordinary, they are generally ignorant. The greater part would in their ignorance have called this boy an impostor. And impostor he was pronounced by many medical persons in the hospital. So thought many in the Medical Society, for

"The case was drawn up and sent to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society by Dr. Wilson, in November, under the title of "A Case of Double Consciousness," and a notice affixed in the library that it would be read. But, when the members, having declared that the history of the amputation, being mesmeric, had disgraced them, learned that this case was analogous to mesmeric cases, they actually took down the notice, gave half a hint to Dr. Wilson that he might withdraw the paper, a report went about that the boy shammed, and the paper was not read till Feb. 28."†

On that occasion, "Mr. Bransby Cooper remarked that Dr. Wilson's patient was on low diet" (an incorrect assertion): "he liked full diet better; so robbed to get it. *A good thrashing would have cured him (laughter).*" Such gross ignorance of the subject was excusable in a merely pure surgeon; but

* See the treatment of the "Extraordinary Sleeping Person at Tinsbury," in my Pamphlet: "a very able apothecary of Bath went to him, bled, blistered, cupped, and scarified him, and used all the external irritating medicines he could think on, and all to no purpose, p. 46. Hannah Hunter, whom I cured with mesmerism in University College Hospital, had been tormented with two caustic issues, leeches, endless purging, and salivation, *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 301. Master Salmon had been purged violently with calomel and other things by Dr. Roots, and was all the worse for it; and had literally taken under various doctors "pailfuls of medicine," pp. 315, 320. Elizabeth Kell had been leeches, poulticed, bandaged, linimented, and blistered, and given various drugs, p. 334. Maria Pearney had suffered the extraction of her four front teeth, been urged to part with her leg, been severely salivated in the Westminster Hospital, and been drugged for years. Miss Melhuish had been well leeches, blistered, and drugged, pp. 427, 429. Mary Grimes had been bled twenty-five times, cupped seventeen times, had two setons, three issues, leeches and blisters without number, salivation for seventeen days, physic without end, and had been electrified and had her head shaved by the order of Dr. Watson in the Middlesex Hospital, p. 453: and so with respect to most cases that are treated with mesmerism at last, when doctors have gone through all the useless and severe things, they ever heard of, in their random practice.

† Pamphlet, p. 43.

it was inexcusable in the physicians and general practitioners, who ought to have understood the case, and to have instantly set him right and defended the poor boy by acclamation. But no, this ignorance and folly and cruelty were received with "laughter."^s

"Such a state of things is really lamentable. Let Mr. Bransby Cooper study the diseases of the nervous system before he condemns his fellow-creatures thus. . . .

"His flogging of the poor afflicted boy would be the counterpart of the tearing the hand of the poor girl in the Edinburgh Infirmary with the other surgeon's nails. Thrash the poor boy! The conduct and manners of the two Okeys in their preternatural state were perfectly different from all that was observed in them when not in this state. They were totally ignorant of all persons, things, names, and circumstances, with which they had become acquainted previously: they knew neither their father nor mother, nor the meaning of the words father and mother: forgetting the meaning of almost every term, they learnt all the improper language so constantly used in the wards of hospitals, and irreverently swore and called bad names, and misapplied words, and were readily taught to misapply them, without being aware of impropriety,—and the ignorant portion of the medical periodical press cruelly made fun of this: they had to learn everything afresh: they would have enormous muscular power: they mimicked exquisitely, and had a strong propensity to mimicry and humour, so that they were absurdly thought by those ignorant of particular cerebral faculties being often highly augmented in such cases, whether spontaneously or mesmerically induced, by Mr. Wakley for example, to have been trained and practised impostors, whereas not a single mesmeric phenomenon ever witnessed by any person in them was unreal. The cases of both sisters were genuine throughout, similar but very differently modified, and it was ignorance only which led any one to doubt them, and it was heartless cruelty to slander two perfectly virtuous and afflicted female children, who had been carefully brought up and had lived only with their parents and afterwards in a respectable family till they were seized with epilepsy. Not merely the editor of the *Lancet* knew no better, but the editors of other Medical Journals; and the display of disreputable unacquaintance with this kind of case, and the composition of vulgar tirades by so many professional men pretending to medical

^s Report of the meeting in the *Lancet*, March 4, 1843, p. 87. Mr. S. Solly, who favours phrenology, though I am not aware of his being much acquainted with it, was struck with the voracious appetite only, which was merely an incidental occurrence in the case, the grand nature of which was sleep-waking, and so advised treatment of the alimentary canal. In the first place, the removal of the incidental symptom of voracity would have left the lad uncured of fits of delirious sleep-waking; and in the next, the voracity was an affection of the brain—of the organs of Alimentiveness, as well as his great disposition to mimic and to sing. When we excite the organ of Alimentiveness by the point of the finger, voracity results. (See Vol. III., p. 461).

knowledge, was precisely the conduct which we witness in the streets when a deranged or imbecile person is pursued and hooted by boys and rabble, as though he were master of his own condition and conduct, and not the subject of an affliction profoundly interesting to the philosopher and to the man who can feel for others. *Everything* stated or ever printed to their disadvantage was an *absolute falsehood*; I repeat these words emphatically, an *absolute falsehood*. They are both cured of the violent fits for which they had been long in the hospital, and the reality of which no one had doubted, and for which I at length mesmerised them. One is already respectably married to a young man in her own station of life, and a mother; the other lives with her parents and supports herself by doing needle-work for a neighbouring establishment."^h

The lad who was left completely deaf and dumb by an epileptic fit with which he was seized in the street, was treated as an impostor by Dr. Todd, Dr. Guy, and Dr. Budd, and therefore by the students in King's College Hospital, at the time and after I had cured him with mesmerism, though palsy of some part or other and even insanity or imbecility is a common temporary result of convulsive fits, and therefore not wonderful. He was suspected of mesmerism by one doctor.

"Dr. Guy asked me if I had ever had the hands passed before my eyes, and I told him no; and when the students came, they began asking me such foolish questions, one was this, 'Does your mother know you are out?' and this is my answer, 'That is joking; but still she knows that I am not at home now.'—'Have you ever been in the same way before?' 'I have had fits, but not been so bad before.'—'What is the ring for?' 'For fits.'—'But that does not do you any good.' 'No, not now, sir.' And then Dr. Todd hallooed in my ear, and asked me if I felt it, and I told him that I heard a noise like a pot boiling; and a great many other foolish questions they asked me. And a young man in the hospital told me that Dr. Todd said cuckoo in my ear, and then they wrote down that I should not have any food till I spoke and asked them for some, but they gave me some when I told them I could not ask them for any; and one day Dr. Budd saw me, and he said, 'Oh, the damn young scoundrel, he is only shamming: if I was Dr. Todd, I would whip him till he did speak;' the sister told me; she wrote it down; and when Dr. Todd came, I told him, and he told me to take off my jacket and shirt, and he would give me the whip; and I did take them off, but he did not whip me, and then he ordered me a cold shower bath every morning, and I had it five times; and one day when father came to see me, Dr. Russel, the house-surgeon, told him that it was no use him keeping me there any longer, so father brought me out with him, after I had been in twenty-one days.

^h Pamphlet, pp. 43, 44, 45.

"I do not know what they did to me when there, during the time I was insensible, which was four days and five nights, only a young man, a patient in the hospital, told me that they thrust pins in me, and burnt me with hot spoons, and done several other things to me as well, to make me speak."¹

After his cure by mesmerism he went to shew himself at the hospital.

"And when I went to see them, they told me that mesmerism would never do me any good, and they told me it was no use to come to you to be mesmerised; they wrote it down, and they told me to come again and see them again. And when I went again I could speak and hear, and they said to me, Well, have you got your tongue yet, and I said, Yes; and Dr. Todd said, How's that? is that with mesmerising? and I said, Yes, and he said, Do you really think that you have been cured by mesmerism? and I said, Yes; and they said, Oh foolish boy, you should not think that, because you would have got your speech and hearing just as soon if you had stopped here; and I said to them, What made you send me home then if you could have cured me? and then they began laughing at me, and I told them I did not come there for to be made game of; and then they said, That will be a fine thing for Dr. Elliotson to make something of: and then they asked me a great many questions, but they laughed at me so that I would not answer them; and the questions were about Dr. Elliotson; and they would laugh at me so that I would not stop any longer.

Another note from him ended thus:—

"And they made all manner of game of me, and laughed at me, and said that I was a foolish boy to believe that Dr. Elliotson had cured me by mesmerism. But I told them that he had certainly cured me. And I said this, that I had no hearing or speech when I went to him, and that now I could both hear and speak."²

II. *A Case of Double Consciousness in Bavaria independent of Mesmerism, and attended not by voracity, mimicry, and singing, but by delusion and murderous propensity.*

In Anselm Ritter von Feuerbach's collection of trials is one of a poor but excellent youth, subject to epilepsy and also afflicted with double consciousness: and in one of his two states, the diseased, preternatural one, he was decidedly insane, and at length committed a murder. I employ Lady Duff Gordon's recent translation of a few of them.

Feuerbach was for ten years president of the central criminal court of a province of Bavaria, containing several towns, and inhabited by half a million of people differing in religious faith.

¹ *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 341.

² p. 347. The motto of King's College is '*sancte et sapienter*:' this cruelty and ignorance become neither virtuous nor informed men.

"In Bavaria, on the discovery of any crime, the *Untersuchungs Richter* (examining judge)—and Feuerbach himself once filled that office, which, in fact, combines the duties of public prosecutor with that of judge—instantly sets about collecting evidence. Those against whom he finds any reasonable ground of suspicion are at once apprehended, and kept in prison until their guilt or innocence be proved. The judge meanwhile endeavours to trace back the prisoner's life to his very cradle, to make himself thoroughly acquainted with his character and disposition, in order thence to infer whether he be or be not a man likely to have committed the crime imputed to him. To this end witnesses are examined.

"Children under eight years of age, persons directly interested in the result of the trial, or who have been convicted or even strongly suspected of perjury, falsehood, or suppression of evidence, are incompetent witnesses. Suspicious witnesses are persons under the age of eighteen, accomplices, the injured party, informers, except such as are officially bound to inform, persons of doubtful character, and persons in any way connected with or hostile to the party affected by their testimony.

"The evidence of two sufficient witnesses (those against whom none of the above-mentioned objections can be raised), as to facts which they have seen with their own eyes, is taken as proof; that of one sufficient witness as half proof.

"The testimony of two suspicious witnesses, if agreeing, is equal to that of one sufficient witness.

"Circumstantial evidence amounts to proof when all the circumstances are fully proved by witnesses, and cannot be reasonably accounted for except on the supposition of the prisoner's guilt; but while any other explanation is possible the evidence is deemed imperfect; and even when circumstantial evidence is complete, the conviction of the prisoner, in cases of capital offence, is not followed by sentence of death, unless he confess his crime.

"By far the most important evidence is that given by the prisoner himself; he is questioned by the examining judge, in the presence only of a notary employed to take down his replies. The judge begins by exhorting him to tell the truth, hinting that a full confession may soften his punishment. He then asks him whether he knows why he has been arrested; and if the prisoner affects ignorance or gives a false reason, he is again admonished. Should he persist in his assertions the judge closes the examination for that day. At the next examination he reminds the prisoner of the duty of truth and of the danger of persisting in falsehood, and then begins a series of questions calculated to entrap him into admissions inconsistent with innocence. If on the other hand the prisoner states the true cause of his arrest, he is called upon to tell all he knows of the matter. His statement is written down, and the judge afterwards questions him upon every circumstance of his story, important or trifling, taking care that he shall not, if it can be avoided, perceive which questions are important, and that no time be allowed him to consider his replies. During the inquiry the prisoner is kept in

ignorance of the charge against him, and any endeavour on his part to gain information on the subject is an offence in law. He is not allowed to see a copy of his own evidence or of that of the witnesses. But when the judge has failed to obtain a confession the prisoner is unexpectedly confronted with one or more of the witnesses against him, or with an accomplice, if there be one, in the hopes of surprising him into a confession. Should the prisoner refuse to answer, he is put on a diet of bread and water. In cases of murder, the accused is led to the spot where the crime was committed, and the bleeding corpse, or, it may be, the mouldering remains, are suddenly shown to him. Feuerbach remarks that in cases of infanticide this expedient has never been known to fail; but it is manifest that such terrors can have little or no effect on hardened and resolute criminals. A confession must be formally made before the examining judge, and that not during the first examination; a confession made then cannot be followed by conviction; and a confession made before two sufficient witnesses in the absence of the judge is only half proof, and requires to be confirmed by other evidence.

"But even when a confession has been extorted it affords no proof of the *That bestand*, the *corpus delicti*, or fact that the crime has been committed: it is evidence that the prisoner committed the actions which he describes, but it does not prove what were the results of those actions. The *That bestand* must be proved beyond all reasonable doubt, and in cases of murder it must be shown that the injuries inflicted were undoubtedly mortal.

"It is the duty of the examining judge to collect evidence for the prisoner as carefully as against him; but when he has got together all that he can find, the prisoner is furnished with a legal defender, who is allowed to confer with him in private, having first sworn to undertake no unrighteous defence. This advocate makes a minute of his objections to the course of procedure, and composes a written defence, which is sent by the examining judge, together with a full report of all the proceedings, to the central criminal court of the district. This court decides by majority upon the guilt of the accused, the nature of his crime, and the punishment to be inflicted; when the punishment is death, or imprisonment exceeding twenty years, the sentence is sent for revision to the high court of appeal, and in other cases the prisoner may appeal, if he desires it. When the appellate court has given its decision, the prisoner, if the sentence be reversed, is instantly set free; if confirmed, it is executed within twenty-four hours.

"If, in cases of capital crime, proof fails from mere technical insufficiency, the prisoner escapes the punishment of death; but imprisonment of greater or less duration and severity is inflicted."

The criminals thus treated usually confess their crimes in the most circumstantial manner: and Feuerbach was so struck with this, that he devotes a whole chapter to an examination of it. "A few," he says, "very few, confess from remorse, some from inability to evade the searching interrogatories of

the judge, some from indifference to their fate, others from a desire to put an end to a state of anxiety and suspense; but by far the greater number from dislike to the strict discipline and compulsory silence of a Bavarian prison. One criminal, after three days' imprisonment, confessed, saying, 'That he could no longer hold his tongue; that he had been accustomed to social pleasures, and would rather tell all than be condemned to perpetual silence.'

One trial in Lady Duff Gordon's selection, that of a puritanical and jesuitical priest for the murder of one of the women he had seduced, lasted five years, filled forty-two folio volumes, and consisted of above a hundred examinations.

"The reader," remarks Lady Duff Gordon, "who may be inclined altogether to condemn this German prolixity and deliberation, should remember that in the year 1827 no fewer than six persons, who had been convicted of capital crimes at the Old Bailey, and left for execution, were proved to be innocent, and saved by the zeal and activity of the sheriff. In the last century the Bavarian criminal procedure was anything but slow. Torture was not abolished until 1806, a reform chiefly owing to the humane exertions of Feuerbach, and extremely distasteful to the judges of the old school, who could not forgive him for having put an end to so simple, expeditious, and easy a mode of obtaining evidence. 'What,' said they, 'could be the use of making so many difficulties about hanging a pack of criminals?' The time lost by the abolition of torture was at first regained by a total disregard of the very slight means of defence afforded to the accused by the *Codex Juris Bavarici Criminalis de anno 1751*. The doctrine that the sooner criminal cases were disposed of, the better, was acted upon until the 16th of May, 1813, when the criminal code, composed by Feuerbach for the kingdom of Bavaria, received the royal assent. This code was adopted by the duchy of Oldenburg, and forms the basis of new criminal codes for Weimar, Würtemberg, and other German states."

The love of the German lawyers for the old-established method of torture corresponded with the love of our lawyers for the established method of strangling. A virtuous and enlightened individual springs up in every profession and department, enforcing humanity, reformation, or truth, while his brethren set their faces sternly against his attempts, stigmatising him as weak-minded, visionary, or innovating. Among English lawyers there have been Basil Montagu and Romilly: among English divines, Law, Wheatley—but how few more! When good and able men stand up with a new truth or a reformation in their hand for their fellow-creatures, those of their own profession vociferate against it and cry out for a continuance of ignorance and error and of bad old ways, and the mass of mankind join the professional herd, suppos-

ing they must know best. "Not *this man*, but *Barabbas*!" was the cry of the populace chiming in with the voice of their priests, when Christ, the innovator and simplifier, would have substituted sincerity for hypocrisy, simplicity for formalities, and virtue for subjection to priestcraft and for grovelling superstition,—all doated upon by the majority of the religious world, protestant as well as papist, at this very hour as much as eighteen hundred years ago, when they raised sometimes his indignation, and sometimes his compassion.

A day labourer of Lenzenberg, named Conrad Eichmüller, and seventy-one years old, did not return home on the night of the 7th of September, 1824, from digging and cutting up stumps of trees on a hill called Hansgörgle near the forest Hersbruck. His wife's son and some other youths found him dead, and on carrying the news to the widow, were sent back by her with a cart to fetch the body.

"Eichmüller was found about three feet from the stump at which he had been working, and in which three wedges were still sticking; he was lying with his face towards the ground; his skull shattered, and both feet chopped off; the left foot still adhered to the body by the boot, but the right lay under a tree at a distance of four or five feet; traces of blood clearly showed that he had been dragged from the spot where he was at work, after he had been killed and his feet had been chopped off: his jacket and his two axes were scattered about, and one of the latter was stained with blood in a manner which left no doubt that it had been used in the murder and mutilation of the unfortunate old man. The wife had charged her son to take possession of the money which her husband had in his pocket, amounting to about two florins, but on searching the body nothing was found upon it save one button in the breeches pocket.

"On the 7th of September (the day of the murder), Paul Deuerlein, a day-labourer, was driving a cartload of grain from Reichenschwand to Hersbruck, and at about five o'clock in the afternoon he overtook young Sörgel on the road, and called out to him, 'Where do you come from? the Hansgörgle, eh?' Sörgel replied, pointing to the hill, 'A year ago some one buried my blood up there; I went to look for it last year, but it had not curdled then, and he who had buried it flogged me soundly. To-day I went up there again to look after my blood, and he who buried it was there again, and had horns, but I hit him on the head with the hatchet, chopped off his feet, and drank his blood.' Deuerlein, who knew that Sörgel was foolish at times, took no heed of what he said; meanwhile they came to Hersbruck, where Sörgel's father was waiting for him at the door of the poorhouse, into which he and his family had been received."

Sörgel was a poor innocent industrious youth, subject first

to violent epilepsy and then to *paroxysms of second consciousness*, in which his faculties were *deranged*,—in which he had delusions and ungovernable criminal propensities, the whole of which he was *ignorant of upon returning to his ordinary state of consciousness*, though in his morbid state he remembered the occurrences of his natural state—precisely as is most commonly the case when double consciousness is induced artificially by mesmerism and which must have begun before he went with his father to the Hansgörgle, since he remembered not even this in his natural state.

“Sörgel came quietly along with Deuerlein, who told the father, in the presence of a blind man called Albert Gassner, what his son had been saying. The father scolded his son for talking such nonsense; but he replied, ‘Yes, father, it is quite true that I knocked a man on the head, and chopped off his feet; I killed him in order to drink a felon’s blood; and the man had horns upon his head.’ Gassner followed Sörgel into his room, where he added, ‘I also took from him a purse of money, but I threw it away again, for I will never keep what is not mine.’ Gassner said, jesting, ‘Oh, you kept the money, to be sure;’ whereupon Sörgel was angry, and said, ‘Hold your tongue, or I will strike you dead.’

“About an hour later Sörgel went into the barn of the inn next door to the poorhouse, laughing heartily, and said to Katharine Gassner, ‘Now I am well again; I have given it to some one soundly; I hit him on the head, and chopped off both his feet, and one of them I threw away.’ Katharine was frightened at this speech, especially as she perceived blood upon his face; when she asked him how it got there, he answered, ‘I drank a felon’s blood;’ and he went on to tell her that the man was sitting on the ground filling a pipe, and that he (Sörgel) took up the man’s hatchet, which lay beside him, struck him with it on the head, and took two florins which he had upon him.

“In the evening he told Katharine Götz, the daughter of the sick-nurse in the poorhouse, that he had come upon a woodcutter who was digging up stumps in the forest, and that at first he had helped him at his work, but that the man then appeared to him to have horns, whereupon he took up the hatchet and hit him on the head, that the man groaned very much, and he then chopped off both his feet, and drank his blood.

“Old Sörgel, who looked upon his son’s story as a symptom of returning insanity, to attacks of which his son was subject, chained him to his bed by way of precaution. The son bore it quietly, ate his supper, and joined in prayer with the rest of the family as usual, and then lay down; but towards morning he broke out in raving madness, stormed, and tugged at his chain, which he endeavoured to break. In this state he was found by the constables when they went to arrest and take him before the court, and they were accordingly forced to depart without him. Soon after, however, he became perfectly quiet, and his own father and another man took him before the court, unfettered, on the 8th of September.

"He was immediately examined in the presence of his father and his father's companion. On being questioned, he stated that his name was John George Sörgel, that he was twenty years of age, a Protestant, the son of a day-labourer, born in the poorhouse at Hersbruck, unmarried, and without property, and that he had learned the trade of a knife-grinder and of a chimney-sweep. On being asked whether he had ever been in custody before, he replied, 'Oh, no; who would do any harm to me—I am an angel.' He then related the murder as follows:—'I went yesterday with my father to the wood called the Hansgörgle—I left my father, and saw at a distance an old man digging up stumps of trees—I did not know this man; but it seemed to me that my own blood was buried under the stump, and I formerly dreamed that my parents were shut up in that place, and that I must drink the blood of a felon. So I went up to the old man and struck him on the head with his hatchet, and chopped off both his feet. I then drank the blood out of his head, left him lying there, and went home.' When asked what could induce him to commit such a deed, he said, 'The thing is done and I cannot help it; it was because I thought he was digging up my blood.' Sörgel signed the protocol properly, but during the examination he stared about him wildly, showed great restlessness, and fidgeted with his feet and hands; moreover, he continually expressed a desire of becoming a soldier, and could only be kept in the room by the promise that his wishes should be complied with.

"On the same afternoon he was taken to Lenzenberg to see the body, which he approached without the slightest air of dismay, embarrassment, or remorse. When asked whether he recognized it, he said, 'Yes, it is the same man whom I struck yesterday evening, he is dressed in the same clothes; I chopped off his feet so that he might never be laid in chains again.' During this scene he displayed the same bodily restlessness as he had done at his examination. He frequently laughed, and said that he was an angel, and that he had known very well that the old man was good for nothing.

"On the following day, 9th of September, the judges went into the prison of the accused to examine him again. When asked how he felt, he said, 'My head is very full, and I have had dreams; among other things I dreamt that I must go up to the Hansgörgle; where there is a clock which strikes very loud.' You told us yesterday that you had killed a man: how did you do that? 'I saw an old man digging up stumps in the Hansgörgle, and I went and sat down near him. I took up his hatchet, which lay beside him, and struck him with the back of it upon the head, so that he instantly fell down dead; then I chopped off both his feet. He had an old wooden tobacco-pipe in his hand, which he dropped when I struck him; I took the pipe, but threw it away directly. I also took his flint and steel, and kept them' (these were found upon him by his father, and delivered to the court). Sörgel steadfastly denied having taken any money from the old man, or having confessed to any one that he had done so, nor was a single coin found upon him. Why then did you chop off the man's feet? 'In order that he might not

be laid in chains.' Why did you kill him? 'I struck him because I thought he was going to dig up my own blood.' He then went on to say that a strange woman had once told him he must drink felon's blood to be cured of the falling sickness; and he added that he had felt much better since he had drunk the old man's blood. I knew, said he, that it was forbidden to kill people, but I killed the man in order to be cured by his blood. It happened soon before five in the afternoon, and I first drank the blood from the man's head, and then dragged him to a little distance and cut off both his feet; the left foot remained attached to the boot, and the right foot I threw away.' The blood-stained hatchet was then laid before him; he looked at it attentively, and said at last, 'Yes, that is the hatchet with which I struck the man and chopped off his feet.' He also recognized the flint and steel which were shown him. The examination concluded with the following questions and answers:—Do you repent of what you have done? 'Why, he beat me soundly last year, and that is why he did nothing to me when I hit him on the head.' On what occasion did the man beat you last year? 'I went to the woods once before to catch birds, and he beat me then.' "

This second or morbid state of consciousness lasted a week. He then returned spontaneously to his natural state.

"On the 15th of September the court was informed that Sörgel had been perfectly quiet for several days, and that he talked coherently, without any mixture of foolish fancies. The judges hereupon repaired to his prison in order to avail themselves of this interval of reason for an examination. *His appearance and manner were totally changed; when the authorities came in he took off his cap, and greeted them civilly, which he had never done before, at the same time addressing the judge by name.*"

How exactly the same is this with what we mesmerists every day witness on restoring our patients from their sleep-waking to their natural condition: and how much more must the identity strike those who have witnessed mesmeric sleep-waking attended by a greater than usual dash of cerebral disturbance,—by excessive spirits, by impudence or mischievous propensity. Those who witnessed the second consciousness of the two epileptic Okeys, their wild, unmanageable, delirious, sleep-waking state, must be most forcibly reminded of the phenomena of the two sisters upon reading this.

"On being asked, he said he had felt much better ever since he had been bled by order of the physician. That before that he had not been at all well, that his head had been dizzy and full of strange fancies, and that he had dreamt all manner of nonsense. He was then asked if he knew the cause of his arrest. 'My father,' said he, 'who generally watches beside me at night, told me that I ran away from him in the Hanagörgle and killed a woodcutter, so I suppose that is why I am in prison.' Did he remember going to the Hans-

görgle with his father? *'No; I should know nothing of the matter had not my father told me about it the other day. I know nothing at all of having killed a man; and if I did so, it must have been the will of God who led me thither.'* He was then reminded that he had himself twice told the court that he had killed a woodcutter with his own hatchet. *'I remember,'* said he, *'that you were here in my prison, and that somebody wrote at yonder table, but I know nothing of having confessed that I killed a man.'* He *as positively denied any recollection of having* had a dead man with his legs chopped off shown to him, or that a bloody hatchet and a flint and steel had been laid before him, both of which he recognized. Nevertheless he knew that he had been imprisoned for about ten days, and that it was Saturday. He admitted having heard, as he added, from his mother, who had heard it from some one else, that the blood of a felon was a cure for the falling sickness, but observed that the man he killed was no felon, but rather that he himself must be one. Still he maintained that he *never remembered drinking human blood or killing the woodcutter.* *'Every one tells me that I did so,'* said he, *'and therefore I am bound to believe it, but I must have been out of my mind at the time.'* During the whole examination his demeanour was quiet and collected, he spoke coherently, and without any confusion of ideas, and his look was open and unembarrassed.

"The next examination was deferred until the 28th September, but nothing new was elicited. Sörgel still answered every question by declaring that he knew absolutely nothing of all that he had formerly related to the court and to other persons. The flint and steel were shown to him, but he *denied all knowledge of them*, or of how they had come into his possession. The axe was likewise laid before him, but he said *'I don't know it.'* The court remarked that during the whole examination the prisoner behaved with composure and propriety, was perfectly easy and unconstrained, and that his countenance was open and cheerful."

Now was this unfortunate patient called an impostor by the Germans because of his double consciousness? Did they think that "a good thrashing would have cured him?" Did they laugh? No! they believed the facts before them. Hear, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Mr. Wakley, Mr. Bransby Cooper, Mr. Liston, Dr. Chambers, Dr. Forbes, and the whole company of scoffers at the Okeys and the phenomena artificially induced by mesmerism,—hear the words of wisdom which proceed from the mouth of Feuerbach.

"It is evident that the utter ignorance of all he had done, which Sörgel professed during the examinations of the 15th and 28th August, was not affected. Falsehood is never so perfectly consistent as were his declarations in the two last examinations, nor can dissimulation ever appear so frank and unconstrained as the demeanour of this young man, who was, moreover, described by all who knew him as a simple, kind-hearted, pious lad, when in his right senses.

At both the two last examinations he showed himself perfectly sane, whereas if he had had any reason for wishing to deceive the judge, nothing would have been easier for him than to continue playing the part of a madman. If his ignorance at the two last examinations was affected, his former madness must necessarily have been equally false, a supposition which is contradicted by all the evidence. None but a Garrick could have acted madness with such fearful truth and nature. Nor was a murderer at all likely first to confess his crime in the assumed character of a madman, and then to affect forgetfulness of the past upon pretending to recover reason. If, again, he were really mad when he committed the crime, when he related it and when he recognized the corpse and the blood-stained axe, he could have no conceivable motive for acting forgetfulness of deeds committed and words uttered during a paroxysm of insanity.

"His behaviour in court on the 3rd November, when his advocate's defence was read to him, confirmed the truth of his statement. His advocate pleaded for an acquittal on the ground that he was not accountable for his actions. During the reading of this paper Sörgel's manner was unconstrained and almost indifferent: he listened to it attentively, but without the slightest emotion. On being asked whether he was satisfied with the defence, whether he had anything to add, and if so, what? he answered, 'I have nothing to add, and what yonder gentleman has written is quite to my mind. As I have often said, I *know nothing about killing any man*, and if I did so, it must have been while I did not know what I was about. If I had been in my right mind, as I am now, I certainly should not have harmed any one.' To the inquiry how he felt, he replied, 'Very well, but a few days ago my keeper tells me I was very crazy again and talked all manner of nonsense, but *I do not know a word of the matter*.'

"Nothing is more remarkable than that Sörgel's confessions, which were made during his fits of madness, should, with one single exception, tally so accurately in every point with the real facts of the case. His statement was as connected and as intelligible a one in every respect except the fantastic motives which he assigned for the deed, as could have been made by a perfectly sane man. The only one of his assertions which was contradicted by the evidence of others is this, that before the court Sörgel denied having taken, or having ever told any one that he had taken, the murdered man's purse. It was nevertheless certain that the woodcutter had had two florins in his possession, and that this money must have been taken by Sörgel. This was proved by the declaration of the widow and her son, and by the confession made by Sörgel that very evening to the blind Gassner and to Katharine, both parties agreeing exactly as to the sum. It is, however, equally certain that Sörgel did not keep this money; in all probability he took it in a fit of childish avidity, and afterwards threw it away as a useless or forbidden possession.

"The perfect unconcern with which Sörgel related the whole transaction, as if it were the most ordinary event, as well as several

irrational expressions which he made use of in court, prove him to have been mad, not only when he committed the murder, but also when he underwent the first two examinations. The most remarkable light is thrown upon his condition by the change which took place in him when the fit of madness had passed away. With the madness every trace of the imaginary world which it had called into existence disappeared from his mind. His recovery was like waking from a deep sleep, which left no impression but a vague sense of bad and frightful dreams. So long as his soul was darkened by madness, he was as perfectly conscious of his own fancies, motives, resolutions, and actions, as of the real external circumstances of the deed, and was able clearly to describe all that had passed. But these images, motives, and recollections vanished as soon as the spell of madness was broken, and he heard the account with as much surprize as he would have listened to the recital of the strange deeds of some unknown person. He knew only thus much of a period of several days, 'that his head was very confused, and that he dreamt all manner of nonsense.' He did not even remember the substance of his dreams; only one or two circumstances remained in his memory; for instance, that the judge had visited him in prison, and that some one had written at the table. He was not aware either that he was himself the principal person concerned on that occasion, that the subject of the inquiry was his own deed, or that he had confessed it.

"It is well known that in madness or delirium the patient often appears to himself to be a third person, or ascribes his own feelings and actions to some one else. Thus a fever patient begs his nurse to remove that troublesome guest out of his bed, pointing all the while to himself, or says that a friend sitting by his bedside has a violent pain in the side or is thirsty, and requests that something may be given him to drink; while it is he himself who feels the pain and the thirst which he ascribes to another. This singular confusion of persons occurs twice in Sörgel's madness, and proves its reality and the truth of his confession; and also that the confession was made during the paroxysm of insanity, as in it he relates these delusions as positive facts.

"The first instance of this delusion was that which prompted him to drink the blood of the murdered man. After he had recovered his senses he was perfectly well able to distinguish a felon from a murdered man. Thus his application of the vulgar superstition that the blood of an executed felon is a cure for the falling sickness, to the man he had himself killed, was no doubt entirely the result of this delusion. His imagination transferred to the person of the murdered man that which he knew himself to have become by the deed he had committed.

"We find exactly the same confusion in the motive which induced him to chop off the feet of the murdered man. He constantly asserted that he had done this in order to prevent their laying the old man in chains again. Now Sörgel had of late been frequently chained himself, and indeed had but just been released from the chains in which he had lain all night, and possibly still felt the

pressure of the rings upon his ankles; and here again his disturbed imagination confounded his own feet with those of the dead man, and in order to secure *himself* from the danger of being laid in chains in future, on the presumption that a man who has no feet cannot be chained by them, he chopped off both the feet of the dead wood-cutter."

Mr. Bransby Cooper not being the medical authority appointed to judge, the unfortunate Sörgel had not a "good thrashing." Mr. Wakley and Sir Benjamin Brodie not being appointed to judge, he was not a practised impostor and handed over to insult and defamation, like the Okeys fourteen years afterwards.

"The physicians declared their opinion that Sörgel had committed the murder in a paroxysm of madness, when he was not accountable for his actions, and accordingly the court, on the 23rd November, 1824, acquitted him of murder.

"For the safety of the community he was confined in the mad-house of Schwabach, where he died in the course of a few months."

This decision was given in 1824. The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, ignorant that there are cases of double consciousness, refused a place for Dr. Wilson's paper in their transactions in 1843, doubting the facts, and miserably fearing to publish them. Well it is for the members and the bulk of the profession that it is now published: but better would it have been had the Society been sufficiently informed before to have understood and appreciated them three years ago.

The two following cases were kindly written out for me at the time the profession pronounced the Okeys impostors, by Mr. Wing, then of Aberdeen Place, St. John's Wood, and previously of Lincolnshire, where they occurred. As one young lady died, and the other remained obviously ill, I hope those who deride and are ignorant of such complaints will be satisfied.

"III. *Somnabulic Case of Miss J.*

"Miss J., a resident in the country, æt. 17, of dark hair and eyes, spare form, and of short stature, of interesting features, but of pale complexion, and in whom the catamenia had not appeared, was seized at the age of seventeen with various symptoms of hysteriæ; there was a loss of appetite and a confined state of the bowels. Miss J. had a particular aversion to animal food, and which has existed to the present day to such a degree that it is scarcely ever taken.

"This young lady suddenly surprised her friends and my-

self upon one of my visits by raising herself to an erect attitude in bed, and throwing most gracefully her arms in such different positions that I could only compare the mutations to the never-ending variations of the kaleidoscope. In a moment my patient would take up the pillows and cast them at myself, her friends and attendants, for perhaps two or three minutes, and then as quickly would descend from her bed, and taking a seat at the piano in her bed-room, would play some airs, all present thought *with far more taste and excellence than when performing upon the instrument in her natural state*. These attacks would last from about one to six hours in the day; on two or three occasions they did not terminate until about twelve hours. From their commencement to their total disappearance, a period of about six weeks elapsed. During the somnambular state the *eyes remained perfectly closed, and from the tongue no sound was uttered*. No appeal from any of her friends, either by the voice or nipping her, had any effect whatever. This young lady was returned to better health by tonics and change of air, but her health to this day, about eight years since, is delicate, as indicated by her countenance and want of strength; her appetite is very indifferent, and animal food is seldom or never taken. The catamenia were established about four months after the somnambular state, but have continued with great irregularity and deficiency."

IV. "Miss A., whose residence was in the country, and who had dark hair and eyes and a pleasing complexion, though without colour, was seized when 17 with painful catamenia and sickness, which continued with little variation to the end of her suffering life. No meal that Miss A. took stayed more than a few minutes; she would occupy her seat with her family at the dinner table, and at or towards the end would quietly leave the room, and return as though nothing whatever had happened to disturb her. It was a matter of astonishment to every one how little she was reduced in flesh, and how little her complexion presented the appearance of an invalid. I was called to attend Miss A. when her age was nineteen, and then she complained of severe pain in the region of the liver, and an acute pain over the left eye, which with other hysteric symptoms I found she had frequently laboured under. There had been a cessation of the catamenia for several months. For the hepatic pain cupping was successfully employed.

"About this time Miss A. used to be taken *once and sometimes twice a day with a changed voice, and apparently with*

a totally altered mental character. The former became weak and childish; the latter was marked by a particular amiability in all that was said and done by her. Every person and object was called by a new name. For instance, leeches were called *blackkeys*, and myself, *Mr. Flyaway*. This state would continue from a quarter of an hour to about two hours, and invariably terminated by a short sleep of from two to five minutes. What occurred during the changes, she had not the slightest recollection of when perfectly herself; but upon a recurrence, circumstances were referred to which had taken place only in the changed states.

"Miss A. was subject to these changes for about two years and a half. At the age of twenty-one, a polypus in utero was discovered, and removed without any return. There had been little uterine hæmorrhage to indicate the existence of such a disease, but much pain in the uterine region had for many months been endured.

"The catamenia were irregular, and appeared only once in about four months. The sickness continued unabated until nature was completely worn down.

"At the time of this afflicted lady's decease, I was many miles from her, and I am unacquainted with the particulars which immediately preceded her final sufferings. She lived to the age of 31."

V. I received the following history from a gentleman who was my pupil at University College before the time of mesmerism. The patient was not an "affected or cunning miss," but a plain industrious middle-aged mother.

"Hereford, Dec. 22, 1838.

"My dear Sir,—Thinking the outline of the following case would interest you, I will mention its principal features as they have appeared to me, and beg if you wish to know more of it you will let me know what kind of inquiry you wish made, and I will most gladly attend to it.

"I am attending a Mrs. Griffiths, the wife of a sawyer and mother of three or four children, about 40 years of age, and of good general health, for an extensive scald on her leg.

"For some years she has been subject to fits of ecstasy or somnambulism, occurring at irregular intervals, and not induced apparently by any particular condition of the system at the time unless occasionally by some family annoyance. Of late they have been more frequent, occurring once or twice a week—more or less often.^k She is a very industrious

^k "Fits occur sometimes during sleep. Once I saw her in them and observed that when she was induced to speak, she called some substantives by their wrong names." The same occurred in Dr. Elliotson's patient, vol. 1. p. 437.

and what we call *tidy* woman, and keeps her house remarkably clean; and in conformity with these habits generally commences at the onset of the attack to take down the rows of plates and dishes, washes the shelves, and cleans and wipes the plates, &c., sweeps the house, makes the bed, goes up and down stairs for express objects, and so on. The fit lasts ten or twenty minutes, during which time she keeps ceaselessly occupied, and if any one, even her husband or children, interrupt her seriously, or get so much in the way that she is incommoded by them, she boxes and cuffs them violently, otherwise never interferes with them.

"If the attack comes on when she is doing some of her household work, she generally leaves it and goes about something else; but this is not always the case, for on the occasion of her scalding her leg she was cooking dinner, and in the act of frying bacon; she *finished* the fry, and then took the fat from it, and *in that* cooked the potatoes, which were previously put ready, and made up dinner as if she had been well. But somehow she threw down some boiling water over the leg, *but was not aware* that she had scalded it, and when a neighbour came in and said to her, 'You have scalded your leg,' she replied, 'I have not; for if I had I should have wet the stocking, and I have not wet the stocking,' not being conscious I suppose by its feel that the stocking was wetted. She then 'came to herself' as usual without any event, only feeling a little 'tired' and slight head-ache, and had *no recollection* of what had passed, which she never has, nor yet any from fit to fit; I mean, in one fit of what took place in the former one. I think this came on after marriage. The catamenia are regular, she is not subject to head-ache, has intellect unimpaired, but has now and then symptoms of hysteria and nervousness.

"I am, dear Sir, in haste,

"Yours very respectfully and obliged,

"C. LINGEN."

Having applied again lately to Dr. Lingen respecting this case, he writes to me, June 10, that,

"The woman is still living and in much the same condition: she has again scalded herself very badly. Nothing has happened to complicate her case in the way of paralysis, &c., &c., nor do I think that her mind is much impaired, though it has evidently sustained some impairment.

"I find you still pursue your investigations,—I dare *not*, if I were so disposed! I am not rich enough! I firmly believed much that I read, and am not afraid to say so; but if

I practised it, it would play the deuce with me at once: indeed I regret very much that it has operated even as far as here to interfere with your being consulted; all the world knowing how stoutly and importunately you have advocated the claims of mesmerism."

VI. The following case was published in the *London Medical Gazette*, of Nov. 7, last year, by Dr. Mayo, brother of Mr. Mayo the surgeon.

"April 1831.—Elizabeth Moffat, resident at Tunbridge Wells, a healthy girl, aged about 18, having swallowed by mistake some blistering ointment, a long train of symptoms of pain and irritation in the head, thoracic region, and bladder, ensued. These gradually subsided, but left an extreme susceptibility of pain in the head from either sound or contact, so that in either case she *readily became insensible, particularly from pressure on the vertex*. On this physical state the following mental phenomena supervened. She appeared to pass alternately, and in succession, through two different states of mental existence; or rather, I might say, her normal state was exchanged for an abnormal one, which I shall presently describe, out of which she would return, sometimes after it had lasted some weeks, into the normal one,—her passages from either state into the other occurring suddenly. The phenomena of her abnormal state were those of extreme excitement, entirely dissimilar to her natural habit, which was dull and quiet. Under this state she made considerable progress in needle-work, and in many points of intellectual acquirements, *far beyond the energy and ability of her normal condition. She became also lively and spirited in conversation*. At the same time she lost her consciousness of her relation to her father and mother, and former associates, *calling them by wrong names*. She was, however, at no time incoherent. On the subsidence of her abnormal state, her recollection of her father, mother, and friends, in their just relation to her, would return, and she would resume her quiet and dull character; she would also resume her true position and *respectful manners* towards some ladies of Tunbridge Wells, from whom she was receiving kindness and instruction; meanwhile, in both her states, the normal and abnormal one, the associations which have taken place in each are obstinately retained without the smallest confusion, but *in each with a total oblivion of what has been learnt in the other state*. Thus, in her normal state, she will have *entirely forgotten all those manual or intellectual acquirements which she may have made during that of excitement*, and every attempt to instruct her in these points will utterly fail.

"From the scantiness of my notes, and an unwillingness to trust my memory, I am unable to supply adequate particulars of this case; for instance, I cannot answer the question, under what conditions, whether from pressure on the vertex, the transition from one state into the other seemed to occur? I can affirm, generally, that the case received no benefit from medical measures, that it gradually lost

its mental peculiarities, and the normal state became permanent. But in the meanwhile circumstances of misconduct in the girl's relatives were discovered, which led to an impression among her patrons at Tunbridge Wells that the case was an imposture; and, fortunately perhaps for the patient, it was left to itself.

"I have observed that a suspicion of simulation in the above case occasioned it to be dismissed with unbelief. It is probable that a more scrutinizing eye ought to have been applied throughout the inquiry into it. But does the discovery of simulation in hysterical disease, to which the above case is analogous, involve a total rejection of every *other* symptom of that state? I say of every *other* symptom, for simulation itself is a symptom of hysteria, though not an inseparable one. What is more common than to see young persons become deceitful, to the extent, *exempli gratia*, of pretending incapacity to take food, while they are covertly taking articles of *indigestible* food to a great quantity? The mental pathology of that state is fully as singular as its physical. I do not believe that Elizabeth Moffat *could* have simulated *all* the phenomena of *her* case; and when I find that case, singular as it is, forming one under an assigned medical head on the authority of an eminent pathologist, I more readily give some weight to my own convictions on this subject.

"Much of the above reasoning has a bearing on that train of symptoms which I have adverted to as having common points with the above case; I mean, the trance produced by the manipulations of the mesmerisers. Is it philosophical to decline inquiry into these symptoms, *because* they may have occasionally been exaggerated, or even put on, when adequate evidence is afforded of their general reality by unbiassed and numerous observers? But if the question cannot be answered affirmatively, let me put another, with the same intention, which naturally springs out of it. Is it wise in *us*, who desire to obtain for our tripartite profession exclusive privileges from the legislature, to prove that we are unworthy of these privileges, by refusing inquiry into practises which offer, on extensive authority, an antidote to pain and irritation in their direct forms? We allow our nurses to rock our infants to sleep. Are we to be told, that it is absurd and unjustifiable to produce a form of sleep during which pain is unfelt, and irritation allayed, by movements of the hands? Yet such a proposition I have heard maintained by an eminent and valued member of our profession in a wise and learned assembly.

"I allude here to the ordinary phenomena of mesmerism—the trance, which the operators in these cases appear to have the power of producing and terminating at will. Unless we propose to establish a new theory of the value and effect of testimony on belief, or of the utility and desirableness of adding to our means of subduing pain and irritation, it is our *duty* to give a patient and candid inquiry into this subject, and to profit by it, if we may."

The rational and independent remarks of Dr. Mayo do him honour. His conduct was excellent in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society when the case of amputation

was read,¹ and he was the only physician whom I heard speak with either sense or decency: though I lament that he subsequently blamed the joint writers for printing the case,² as they most justifiably and independently did.³ I must also mention to Dr. Mayo's honour that the Athenæum Club has taken in *The Zoist* at his suggestion. This induces me to doubt the flying reports that in society he has often been so ambiguous as to lead persons to suppose he disbelieves in mesmerism, and has not recommended it in cases attended by him when other remedies were useless, and has alleged as his reason that if he did he should lose his patients. I lament that, strangely, like his brother and Mr. Colquhoun of Edinburgh, who both have written so much about mesmerism, and the former busied himself so much to see it, he has never set to work himself to cure patients, or at least to interrogate nature with his hands and eyes. His allusion in the *Phrenological Journal* is probably to Sir Benjamin Brodie, with whom he so manfully grappled in the Medical and Chirurgical Society.

VII. In the *Northern Journal of Medicine* for June last year was a similar case, drawn up by Dr. David Skae.

"He is an unmarried gentleman, in the prime of life, connected with the legal profession, of a leuco-phlegmatic temperament, regular in his habits, which have always been retired, and extremely temperate in his mode of life. His complaint commenced with the usual symptoms of dyspepsia—it then gradually passed into hypochondriacism—and ultimately into its present form, a state bordering between hypochondriasis and mental alienation.

"The dyspeptic symptoms became a subject of complaint and solicitude to the patient about ten or twelve years ago. . . . There generally succeeded a train of morbid feelings, and ultimately of illusions founded upon them. The distress occasioned by flatulent distention of the stomach, and the painful feelings in different parts of the body, which are its usual concomitants, led the patient to consult many medical men, and use large quantities of medicine, which, as he still persisted in the habits in which his complaints originated, and the diet by which they were excited, rather aggravated than abated the evil. The fugitive pains and uneasy feelings experienced in different parts of the body were spoken of as sufferings of a mysterious and unparalleled kind; they were at one time believed to be wind circulating through the veins, and at another, the whole system was imagined to be charged with water. While under the influence of these impressions, the patient, day after day, would sit for many hours in the water-closet, believing that the water was constantly discharging itself; and at another time, he continued

¹ See my Pamphlet, p. 56.

² p. 62.

³ pp. 58, 62, 63.

spitting incessantly for many weeks, under the impression that his whole frame was becoming converted into saliva.

"Feelings of gloom and despondency were at the same time developed:—the most trifling errors of the past were magnified into crimes of unpardonable magnitude, and the future was contemplated with the utmost dread. He commenced a system of reading the Scriptures, psalms, and paraphrases, with great zeal and rapidity; this soon grew into a system of rapidly scanning the pages, and incessantly turning over the leaves, and he persuaded himself that he read the whole Bible through, and all the metrical psalms, once or twice daily. He now sat up the greater part of every night, and lay in bed during the day; and when he went to bed, he carefully surrounded his person, from head to foot, with Bibles and Psalm-books.

"Under the influence of the bodily distress and mental despondency from which he suffered, he not unfrequently spoke of drowning himself, or of throwing himself over a window, and on several occasions begged earnestly that he might have his razors. A natural timidity of disposition, and a prevailing conscientiousness, prevented this tendency from displaying itself with any seriousness or determination of purpose.

"From an early period in the history of this case, it was observed that the symptoms displayed an aggravation *every alternate day*. This gradually became more and more marked; and for the last eighteen months the symptoms above described have become distinctly periodic. On each alternate day, the patient is affected in the manner just described, and will neither eat, sleep, nor walk, but continues incessantly turning the leaves of a Bible, and complaining piteously of his misery. On the intermediate days, he is, comparatively speaking, quite well, enters into the domestic duties of his family, eats heartily, walks out, transacts business, assures every one he is quite well, and appears to entertain no apprehension of a return of his complaints.

"What is chiefly remarkable and interesting in the present features of the case, is the sort of double existence which the individual appears to have. *On those days on which he is affected with his malady, he appears to have no remembrance whatever of the previous or of any former day on which he was comparatively well*, nor of any of the engagements of those days;—he cannot tell whether he was out, nor what he did, nor whom he saw, nor any transaction in which he was occupied. Neither does he anticipate any amendment on the succeeding day, but contemplates the future with unmitigated despondency. On the intermediate days, on the other hand, he asserts he is quite well, denies that he has any complaints, or at least evades any reference to them; appears satisfied that he was as well the previous day as he then is, asserts that he was out, and that he has no particular complaints. On that day he transacts business, takes food and exercise, and appears in every respect rational and free from any illusions or despondency; anticipates no return of illness, and persists in making engagements for the next

day for the transaction of business, although reminded and assured that he will be unfit for attending to them. *On those days he distinctly remembers the transactions of previous days on which he was well, but appears to have little or no recollection of the occurrences of the days on which he was ill.* He appears, in short, to have a double consciousness—a sort of twofold existence—one half of which he spends in the rational enjoyment of life and discharge of its duties; and the other, in a state of hopeless hypochondriacism, amounting almost to complete mental aberration.

“An endless variety of remedies have been used in the treatment of this case, and among others, those which are believed to be useful in periodic affections, but without marked benefit.”

Here is another of the thousands of cases in which nothing has done good, and yet the condescension of a single thought has not been bestowed upon mesmerism.

I have two more cases to detail—one of a child who at length ceased to be a sleep-waker, grew up and became a mother: and the other of her offspring, who at the same age became a sleep-waker, was seen by me and mesmerised, exhibiting very interesting phenomena, and also completely recovered.

(To be concluded in next number).

II. *Power of Mesmerism over Vesical Affection.*

Dr. Elliotson begs to forward to *The Zoist* the following communication from a gentleman whom he has not the honour of knowing.

Scarborough, June 6th, 1846.

Dear Sir,—I feel it my duty to place on record the particulars of the following interesting case, illustrative of the powers of mesmerism in the cure of disease. I therefore, send it through you for publication in *The Zoist*, to give you the opportunity of stating, how deeply I consider the public are indebted to you for the unflinching advocacy of an agent so potent in alleviating human suffering and conferring so many blessings on mankind.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

THOMAS WEDDELL, Surgeon.

To John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

Miss N., aged about 30, the daughter of a clergyman of the Church of England, had been ill since Christmas 1843, with irritability of the bladder, produced from calculi in that organ; about 30 having been passed during the last six

months, of sizes varying from a hempseed to that of a pea : the suffering was extreme until May, when total suppressio urinae supervened. From that time, during her stay at Scarborough, for two months, the catheter was employed daily ; the fluid was healthy, but slightly acid ; she always suffered extremely from the operation. The usual medical treatment was perseveringly tried during the whole of that summer, under the direction of several medical practitioners, without any permanent benefit ; her health gave way, her appetite entirely failed, so much so that she took but one cupful of milk and another of tea during the 24 hours, scarcely ever solid food, even in the smallest quantity. Recourse was obliged to be had to morphia to relieve the acute pain constantly endured ; she seldom slept until the morning, and then only for about two hours ; the acetate of morphia was gradually increased until she took two grains three times a day to produce anything like alleviations of her sufferings. She neglected the use of the catheter from the pain of its introduction, occasionally for two, sometimes for three days, (as she lived 9 miles from me, I saw her only once or twice a week) ; the vesica became diseased, the renal secretion small in quantity and *loaded with ropy mucus, very dark, sometimes bloody, with an offensive ammoniacal odour*. She was in the *last stage of emaciation*, could not be removed from bed without fainting ; in short it was *evident nature must soon give up the struggle*. Having heard much of the curative power of mesmerism, and seen something of it from itinerant lecturers, I proposed to her friends to permit me to try its agency : they consented, but there was a difficulty in removing my patient from her extreme debility. By means of a bed in a coach, however, I succeeded in bringing her to Scarborough ; she fainted several times by the way, and was unable from the shaking of the carriage to travel quicker than a foot pace. This was on the 6th of April, 1844. I gave her two grains of acet. morphiæ on her arrival, which soothed her after a time, but she passed a restless night, and had considerable suffering.

27th. Mesmerised her for the first time by looking steadily at her for four minutes. The pulse was 112, breathing 20 in a minute. During the sleep, pulse 112, breathing 12. After twenty-five minutes I awoke her by blowing across the eyes ; she felt perfectly easy for some time, but passed a restless night.

On the morning of the 28th, had great pain in the hypogastrium with painful micturition ; about three ounces were drawn away, and she took two grains of acet. morphiæ, which relieved her. I saw her again at 4, p.m. ; she was dozing,

frequently starting, the countenance sunk and anxious. She awoke in great pain with much tenderness on pressing the hypogastrium. Mesmerised in three minutes, and remained half an hour in the sleep; when awoke stated she was very comfortable, free from pain, and could bear pressure without flinching; raised herself in bed without pain, and said she thought she could sit up; from this time I omitted the morphia.

29th, 11 a.m., had a good night, less pain but little sleep, had taken more food; catheter introduced by herself; I did not see the fluid, stated to be very little, but not bloody. Mesmerised in two minutes, and slept an hour; during the trance, I introduced the catheter, found no fluid in the vesica; exhibited no signs of feeling during the operation; when awake, it produces great suffering. She awoke quite free from pain and requested to have breakfast.

30th. Sent a message at 10 a.m., on account of having great pain, and wished to have the morphia. Mesmerised for an hour—awoke perfectly easy; she had taken more food yesterday and had been easy until this morning. Fluid drawn by herself (about four ounces), less ropy, but rather bloody. Health improved.

May 1st. Continues better; fluid less bloody, but very high coloured; mesmerised at 4 p.m. for an hour.

2nd. Had a restless night, considerable pain at the hypogastrium, with tenderness on pressure; bowels regular without medicine; fluid bloody and small in quantity (about 2 oz.); mesmerised in one and a half minute, for an hour, with great relief.

3rd. Better, had slept some hours, calm, and free from pain, pulse 80.

5th. I was from home since the 3rd. Complains of great pain in the back and lower part of the abdomen, arising, doubtless, from not having the fluid drawn since the 3rd. She had neglected this on account of the great pain she endured during the operation. I drew 8 oz. (which was very dark, turbid, ammoniacal) whilst she was in the mesmeric sleep, in which she remained an hour.

6th. Passed a restless night, and has much pain to-day in the back and abdomen; fluid drawn (3 oz.), turbid and ammoniacal; mesmerised in one minute by looking at my watch.

7th. Symptoms same as yesterday; fluid drawn (about 2 oz.); blister to the back.

8th. Pain relieved; had a restless night; appetite bad; fluid drawn (3 oz.), dark and turbid; mesmerised for an hour in the evening.

9th. Had a good night; ascribes it to being mesmerised in the evening; restless this morning, with constant painful micturition; fluid drawn, same as yesterday; mesmerised an hour.

10th. Bad night, very restless, and great pain; mesmerised at 6 p.m. for an hour. When demesmerised, she was attacked with painful micturition, which made her writhe about the bed. I made a few passes down the spine which threw her into the trance. When in that state I passed the catheter, and drew about 4 oz. of limpid fluid. She had drawn about 3 oz. in the morning of the usual character. I now again demesmerised her, when she was somewhat incoherent, but soon recovered, and expressed great anxiety to have a Morphia pill. I sent one of *bread crumb*.

11th. Had a restless night from the painful micturition, but better this morning. Evening, the same as morning; 2 oz. of dark turbid fluid drawn; acted upon by senna and salts; mesmerised an hour.

12th and 13th. Pain less acute, and mesmerised one hour each day.

14th. Passed some fluid naturally, three hours after having 4 oz. drawn, which was more healthy in appearance.

15th and 16th. Unable to pass fluid without the catheter; has less pain, and better in health; mesmerised an hour each day, which was effected in three-quarters of a minute, by looking at a watch.

17th. Not so well; great pain, and no sleep; fluid drawn, 3 oz., and bloody; mesmerised in the evening.

18th. Better night, and easier to-day; fluid still bloody, though much lessropy, about 8 oz. drawn.

19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Gradual improvement; fluid larger in quantity and more healthy.

23rd. Has taken cold, which disorders her considerably; other symptoms the same.

24th. Continues to improve, and from this period passed the fluid naturally, more in quantity, but still turbid, with muco-purulent matter. I now ceased taking special notes of the case, but still continued to mesmerise her daily until the autumn. The kidneys and bladder gradually resumed their healthy functions. The health, strength, and flesh increased, and I am happy to say, my patient returned to her friends *perfectly well*, and has remained so ever since, *now a year and a half*.

I ought, perhaps, to be satisfied by giving to the public the notes of this interesting case, and leave them to draw their own conclusion as to the controlling power of mesmerism over

organic disease; but, during the progress of the treatment, the patient became exceedingly susceptible, and I availed myself of the opportunity for producing phenomena, not unusual, perhaps, to the practical mesmerist, but calculated, I think, to throw some light upon its marvellous agency. It is only by sitting humbly at the feet of nature, and carefully recording the facts which she exhibits, that we can hope to unravel her mysteries. It is but recently that Electricity, Magnetism, and Galvanism have been discovered to be modifications of the same law of nature; and if we can prove that vital phenomena are governed by the same law, we shall add another link to the chain of discovery which may give us the power of alleviating human suffering—of arresting disease hitherto beyond the reach of either medicine or surgery.

When Miss N. had sufficiently recovered to leave her bed, I called at an unusual hour (for some time I had mesmerised her in the evenings). Her sister was in the sitting-room on another floor. I desired her to stay until I called for her, and went softly up stairs, and made passes for five minutes through the bed-room door, which was closed. I then called to the sister, and went into the bed-room. We found the patient in the trance. I left her in the sleep the usual time, then awoke her, and enquired, how she had fallen asleep? She stated that she had felt herself "seized upon," and knew no more. This experiment not being entirely satisfactory—supposing she might have mesmerised herself, I repeated the experiment another way. A week later, I again called at an unwonted hour, and desired her sister to go up stairs and sit by the patient, but not to say I was in the house. I then went into another room, divided from the patient by a brick wall, and closed the door. After I had made passes, through the wall, for two minutes, the sister opened the door hastily, and called out for me to come up stairs. On entering the room, I found the patient on her feet, arrested by the trance as she was walking to the window. This was conclusive, as the patient's mind was engaged by another object, which she was walking towards the window to look at. It will be in the recollection of my readers, that some eighteen months ago, a great noise was made about galvanic rings for the cure of rheumatism, especially. Wishing to test the power of these rings (if they had any), I had three procured—one of each—zinc and copper, silver and copper, and gold and copper. Being careful not to touch them myself, I desired Miss N's sister to place the zinc ring upon the patient's finger, where it remained ten minutes without any effect; it was then removed, and the silver ring placed upon another finger of

the same hand with no better result. The gold ring was then placed on one of the fingers of the other hand, when, in the course of two minutes, the hand became rigid, and, in two or three minutes more she was thrown into the trance, proving the superior power of the gold, as well as the identity of effect with mesmerism. On mesmerising the zinc ring, the same result was produced. Having heard from a scientific friend (Mr. J. Smith, of Malton), that by placing silver and copper coin upon the table (asunder), and placing the thumbs upon the coins, if the patient was seated near, you could *will* that she should be deaf, (he disbelieved it at the time), I agreed to make the experiment. I placed the patient on a chair about three inches from the table, and then put the coins upon it, placing my thumbs upon each, and *mentally willed* that she should be deaf. Miss N. knew nothing of the experiment, and was much distressed at not being able to hear—the deafness was complete, she could hear nothing, however loud the noise. A few minutes after removing the coins the hearing returned. Supposing that, if I could make her deaf, I might also produce *blindness*, or take away the taste, in both cases I proved equally successful by the same means, much to the astonishment and dismay of my patient, who had no idea previously of my intentions. Imagining, though with what truth must be hereafter decided, that the galvanic circle had something to do with these extraordinary effects, I placed Miss N. upon an insulated stool, and repeated the last mentioned experiments in the same way, but found, whilst she was cut off from communication with the earth, I had no power to produce the same effects. Whilst she was on the insulated stool, I also tried to mesmerise by passes and looking steadfastly at her for ten minutes, without the slightest effect; but when I took hold of her hand, and thus restored the communication with the earth, I mesmerised her with a single pass. Mesmerised water has been frequently employed; but I am not aware of any instance being shewn of its retaining its power for any length of time. Having occasionally mesmerised my patient by this mode, I sent her on a Tuesday a draught of $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of mesmerised water, desiring her to take it at seven o'clock p.m., and awake up at half-past eight p.m. She drank about a third of it, and immediately went into the trance, holding the glass in her hand during the whole time, her sister being unable to take it from her. Exactly at the time specified she awoke, and her arm relaxed. The remaining water was put into the bottle, corked up, and on the Saturday following she took the remainder with precisely the same result.

If the above experiments and facts are worthy of insertion in your admirable journal, as throwing additional light upon this very interesting subject, on the truth or fallacy of which so much discrepancy exists, I shall feel much gratification in so far aiding, however humbly, the cause of truth, and furthering the object of this new and extraordinary discovery.*

Scarborough, May 30th, 1846.

III. *More Painless Surgical Operations in the Mesmeric State.*

Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

* Some are led by it (the inductive process) to truth, and some to error. It led Franklin to discover the nature of lightning. It led thousands, who had less brains than Franklin, to believe in *animal magnetism*. But this was not because Franklin went through the process described by Bacon, and the *dupes of Hæmmer* through a different process.—Mr. MACAULAY's article on Lord Bacon, *Edinburgh Review*, vol. 66; and his *Essays*, p. 409.

“And surely no instance of national pride and folly is so intense as this same Scottish entail system. Our posterity will no more give credit to the full extent of its practical absurdities, than they will believe in the devotion to *animal magnetism* and homœopathy, or any other *leading aberrations of our age*.”—*Tait's Edinburgh Magazine*, April, 1846, p. 235; article, *Scottish Entails*.

I RECEIVED the following letter and history from Dr. Esdaile :

“Hooghly, 1st Feb., 1846.

“DEAR SIR.—In consequence of the late unexpected engagements with the Sikhs, 3000 wounded have been thrown on our hands, without any provision being made to receive them, and the civil surgeons are therefore ordered to join the army, by post, with the least possible delay. I start to-morrow, but before going, cannot deny myself the pleasure of informing you of the establishment of mesmerism in Bengal, I may say, in India. I may claim the undivided credit of having introduced this great blessing into India, and of having demonstrated the wonderful extent to which the natives of this country can be benefitted by it. But here, and elsewhere, the principal honour will justly revert to you, for without your courageous and independent advocacy of the truth, the different nations of the earth would have been deprived of this most valuable natural remedy for an indefinite length of time.

“I leave a MESMERIC CORPS here, PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT, so that the good done will not be undone by my departure, and I hope soon to establish mesmerism in the other extremity of Hindostan, and to benefit even our enemies by it.

• We recommend this case to the special attention of Dr. Prout, who is the great authority in such cases, and knows how little good he can do in them; yet scouts mesmerism to the utmost, in perfect and voluntary ignorance of it.—*Zoist*.

Permit me to congratulate you on the happy results of your labours, which will be an encouragement to others not to be ashamed of the truth. I have the pleasure to enclose you my *seventy-fourth* painless operation, and send you by this mail, a newspaper containing a summary of my mesmeric doings for the last eight months. I have also sent the MS. of a work, called "*Mesmerism in India*," to my friends by this mail, and if it finds a publisher, you will find curious matter in it.

"I am, with much respect, yours truly,

"JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.,

"Civil Surgeon.

"Dr. Elliotson,

"Care of Mons. Baillière, Publisher,

"219, Regent Street, London."

I. *Painless removal of a Tumor weighing Forty Pounds.*

"28th Jan. 1846.

"I this morning received a note from the sub-assistant surgeon, informing me that a man had come to the hospital yesterday with a large scrotal tumor, and had been easily entranced. In reply, I desired him to have the man mesmerised at 10 a.m. On my way to the hospital, I met Mr. Wanchope, the magistrate, who offered to accompany me. At 11 o'clock, we found him completely entranced, with very little cataleptic action in the limbs, and one eye was half open, looking exactly like a dead man's. As the sub-assistant surgeon is to be left in charge of the hospital during my absence with the army, he requested me to be allowed to operate in this case, and I willingly consented to assist him. The operation was performed in the usual way, and the man *remained as motionless as a corpse the whole time*; his breathing being entirely abdominal, and *the pulse sixty*, not very weak, —*the half-closed eye remained exactly the same the whole time*. It was *three-quarters of an hour* before the stitching of the flaps together was completed, as the vessels to be tied were very numerous. In *ten minutes* after all was finished, he *awoke as if from a tranquil natural sleep*, and said, 'it was gone!' He *only knew this*, he said, *by not feeling the weight of the mass*, and declared that *nothing had disturbed him in his sleep*, nor had he any pain at that moment—that he *felt quite well*, (he looked so) and was *not at all faint*, in short, he *never was better*. I asked him if he could walk, and he replied, 'certainly!' I offered to assist him to rise, but he *rejected my aid*, got up, and walked to another bed *without being at all faint*. The tumor was *forty pounds* in weight, and

the bleeding very profuse. Having heard that such things were done at Hooghly, he had travelled 70 miles, and arrived yesterday; *the first time he saw me was when he awoke after the operation.*

"The tumor has been sent to the College Museum, Calcutta, and Mr. Wanchope sent the following certificate with it.

" 'Certificate, that I witnessed the above operation, and that the man on awaking declared to me, that he not only felt no pain during or after the operation, but was now in perfect health and strength, and as a proof, rose from the bed on which he had been operated upon, and walked to another with the most perfect ease, refusing all assistance.

" 'S. WANCHOPE, Magistrate.'

"After getting into a clean bed, he called in his friends, and dictated a letter to his father, of which I obtained a sight, and have the pleasure to give a translation.

" 'Your servant, Jabour Dhun Shah, bowing respectfully, begs to inform you, that through your blessing, I arrived at Hooghly on the evening of the 26th Jan. On my going to the hospital next day, I saw the native sub-assistant surgeon (the Doctor Sahib not being present) who put me to sleep, and then examined my disease. This morning, the 28th Jan., I was put to sleep at 10 o'clock, a.m., and the tumor was cut off *without my feeling any pain.* Being then asleep, *I know nothing that was done.* I awoke in an hour after, and saw the tumor lying on the ground. The Sahibs questioned me, and I answered quite comfortably, without any pain about me.

" 'You need not be anxious about me, I will often communicate to you the state of my health.

" 'Hooghly Hospital,

" '28th Jan., 1846.'

"Jan. 29th, he has had no pain whatever up to this time.

"Jan. 31st, he still declares that he has felt no pain in the wound, and he appears quite unbroken yet. The wound was dressed to day, and two-thirds of it have united.

"JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

"Civil Surgeon.

"Hooghly,
"1st Feb., 1846."

Let any one contrast this narrative with a similar, but fatal, operation, performed a few years ago, in Guy's Hospital, by Mr. Key, upon a Chinese, and described in the *Lancet*, No. 398.

The following is the newspaper report transmitted to me with the manuscript.

"CALCUTTA.

"MESMERIC FACTS REPORTED BY JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

"To the Editor of the Englishman.

"Sir,—Before proceeding to join the Army, I have the pleasure to send you a "résumé" of my mesmeric practice during the last eight months.

"My experience has demonstrated the singular and beneficial influence exerted by mesmerism over the constitution of the Natives of Bengal, and that *painless* surgical operations with other advantages, are their natural birthright, of which they will no longer be deprived, I hope.

"Duty calls me to another and more extensive field, where I hope to work out this curious and interesting subject in all its practical details, and to ascertain to what extent other varieties of mankind are capable of being benefitted by this natural curative power.

"I am, your obedient Servant,

"JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

"Hooghly, 22nd Jan., 1846."

"A RETURN,

"Showing the number of painless surgical operations performed at Hooghly during the last eight months."

Arm amputated.	1
Breast ditto	1
Tumor extracted from the upper jaw	1
Scirrhus testium extirpated	2
Colis amputated	2
Contracted knees straightened	3
Ditto arms.	3
Operations for Cataract	3
Large tumor in the inguen cut off	1
Operations for Hydrocele.	7
Ditto Dropsy.	2
Actual Cautey applied to a sore.	1
Muriatic Acid ditto	2
Unhealthy sores pared down	7
Abscesses opened	5
Sinus, 6 inches long, laid open	1
Heel flayed	1
End of thumb cut off	1

Teeth extracted.....	3
Gum cut away	1
Præputium cut off	3
Piles ditto.....	1
Great toe nails cut out by the roots.....	5
Seton introduced from ankle to knee	1
Large tumor on leg removed	1
Scrotal tumors, weighing from 8 to 80 lbs. removed 17, painless.....	14
Operations	73

" A RETURN

" Of medical cases cured by mesmerism during the last eight months.

Nervous Headache..... 3 cured by one trance.
Tic douloureux..... 1 ditto

Nervousness, and lameness from rheumatism of 24 years standing, 1, by chronic treatment. By chronic treatment is meant daily mesmerising without the intention of entrancing the patient, which is not necessary.

Spasmodic Colic..... 1, by one trance.
Acute inflammation of the eye.. 1, by repeated trances in 24 hours
Chronic ditto..... 1, by chronic treatment.
Acute inflammation of testis .. 1, by repeated trances in 36 hours.
Convulsions..... 1, by one trance.
Lameness from Rheumatism .. 1, by chronic treatment.
Lumbago..... 1, by general and local mesmerising
for a week.

Sciatica..... 1, ditto.
Pain in crural nerve..... 1, ditto.
Palsy of one arm..... 1, ditto for a month.
Ditto of half the body..... 1, ditto for six weeks
Feeling of insects crawling over }
the body..... } 1, by one trance.

" It will be perceived that the above cases are chiefly diseases of the nervous system. But as sleep and the absence of pain is the best condition of the body for promoting the resolution of inflammation by the powers of nature, I have extinguished local inflammations by keeping the patient entranced till this was effected.

" I beg to state for the satisfaction of those who have not yet a practical knowledge of the subject, that I have seen no bad consequences whatever arise from persons being operated on when in the mesmeric trance. Cases have occurred in

which no pain has been felt subsequent to the operation even; the wounds healing in a few days by the first intention; and in the rest, I have seen no indications of any injury being done to the constitution. On the contrary, it appears to me to have been saved, and that less constitutional disturbance has followed than under ordinary circumstances.

"There has not been a death among the cases operated on. In my early operations, I availed myself of the first fit of insensibility, not knowing whether I could command it back again at pleasure.

"But if the trance is not profound the first time, the surgeon may safely calculate on its being deeper the next, and when operating in public, it will be prudent to take the security of one or two preliminary trances. Flexibility of the limbs till moved, and their remaining rigid in any position we put them in, is characteristic of the trance: but there are exceptions, and these are equally diagnostic, and to be depended on. It sometimes happens, that the limbs become rigid as they lie, and on bending them they have always a disposition to return to a state of spasmodic extension. At other times, there is a complete relaxation of the whole muscular system, and the limbs can be tossed about like those of a person just dead.

"The eyes are usually closed, but the eyelids are sometimes seen a little separated, or half-open and tremulous, and the eye is even occasionally wide open, fixed, and insensible to the light. On one occasion, having ordered a man to be entranced, I returned after two hours, and was told by my assistant that the man was not affected. I went to see, and found him with half open eyes, quivering eyelids, and trembling hands. I immediately said that he was ready, and without further testing his condition, performed a most severe operation upon him, without his knowing any thing about it.

"I also wish to remark, that I have seen no symptom of congestion of blood in the brain; the circulation in the trance being usually quite natural, like that of a sleeping person. My patients appear to escape the stimulating stage of the mesmeric influence altogether, and to pass at once from life to temporary death. This I am disposed to attribute to the concentrated, uninterrupted manner in which the power is applied: as soon as it is felt, there is no time given to the system to rally from the first impression, and it succumbs without a struggle to the constraining power.

"Some patients, when suddenly awakened, say that their vision is bazy, and their heads light, but I take this to arise from the imperfectly recovered sensibility of the brain and

the organs of sense, which are not at once roused up into the full possession of their waking powers, just as is seen in persons suddenly aroused from profound natural sleep.

"That the mesmeric torpor of the brain and nerves does not arise from sanguine congestion, is often beautifully seen in the first actions of persons awaking from the trance.

"They open their eyes, and at the same moment recover all their faculties, but it is seen that the pupil is insensible to the light: this they also become aware of; they know that their eyes are open, and that they ought to see, but do not. The thought fills them with horror, and with a fearful cry they bury their faces in their hands, like persons struck blind by lightening, but this soon passes off, and the retina recovers its sensibility by a little rubbing of the eye. The dreadful shock given to the mind under such circumstances, or when a Somnambulist awakes and finds himself standing in some strange attitude, naked, in the midst of strangers, (an experiment I have often made) is a trial of the nerves which it would be very imprudent, and even dangerous to make, with any but such singularly impassive subjects as my patients.

"This, and the inconveniences of inducing the *Mesmeric disease* (spontaneous Mesmeric action in the system) by doing more than is necessary for the cure of disease, appear to me, to be the real dangers to be avoided in the use of Mesmerism as a remedy.

"I am now able to say from experience, that debility of the nervous system predisposes to the easy reception of the mesmeric influence, and I augur well of a patient's powers of submission, when I recognise in him the listless dejected air, *l'air abattu*, that usually accompanies functional debility of the nerves.—*Englishman, January 24.*"

II. *Removal of a very large Tumor from the Neck, in France.*

I have received from Professor Durand, *The Journal de Cherbourg* of the 31st of last May, containing the following account:—

"Every one, by the simple power of his will, is able to create a serious perturbation in the natural state of another; and in the results of this extraordinary condition, called *artificial sleep-waking*, may be observed a great number of interesting phenomena, which excite, in the highest degree, the astonishment and admiration of those who witness them. Among these phenomena, one of the most useful is assuredly the absolute insensibility produced in the organs by the mesmeric sleep, and its happy application to surgical operations.

"*Mesmeric insensibility* is now a truth which only requires the exercise of the senses in order to be known and appreciated. Why then has this truth still to encounter so much opposition? Because the thing cannot be conceived possible.

"But have we yet learned the boundaries of possibility? Is it rational to condemn, *a priori*, every thing the results of which human reason is unable to comprehend instantly, every thing which is opposed to the first intuition of intelligence? There are many things which man, by appealing only to his reason, cannot understand, but which nevertheless he is obliged to accept as the expression of truth. All is wonderful in us, and around us. Who can explain the effects of hachich and belladonna? Do we know how opium produces sleep? The phenomena of the circulation of the blood, of respiration, the principle of life, the human will, the laws of gravitation, electricity, galvanism, are so many mysteries which frustrate the investigations of the best informed men. If our reason sometimes revolts against the declarations of new phenomena still incomprehensible, let us not, without due examination, reject them for the mere reason that they are inexplicable.

"Therefore, before regarding the astonishing effects produced by mesmerism as fabulous, let us take the trouble to analyze them with care, to try to produce them ourselves, and not to pronounce judgment before we have entered into a rigorous and minute examination. If mesmeric insensibility, if perception through opaque bodies, if the communication of thought, be real phenomena, they are most certainly well worth being studied: if they are so many errors, still let us examine them; for an error exposed is a truth verified. Let us begin with doubting—that is natural and just; but let us bring to bear upon our multiplied researches, that spirit of doubt which only is reasonable, and consists in neither believing nor denying, until we have seen well, examined well, and applied our faculties well.

"These observations naturally lead us to speak of an important operation performed on Wednesday last, the 27th May, with great skill and complete success by Dr. Loysel, assisted by four other physicians, and in the presence of more than thirty very honourable witnesses, all quite worthy of confidence, and assembled in a very suitable apartment. The subject, who is a young man, eighteen years of age, had before been placed in a state of absolute mesmeric insensibility by M. Delente in their presence. This is the fourth operation of the same kind that has been performed at Cherbourg within the last seven or eight months by Dr. Loysel. We

cannot give a more clear relation than a copy of the report of the operation, at which we were permitted to be present:—

“On Wednesday, the 27th of May, at forty minutes past four o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. Loysel, assisted by Dr. Gibon, and in the presence of three other physicians, performed with remarkable skill and complete success, the operation hereafter related, upon M. Baysset, jun., 18 years old, who was put into the mesmeric sleep and absolute insensibility by M. Delente his mesmeriser. The operation was performed in the presence of a great number of spectators, attracted less by curiosity than by the interest they felt in a measure which promised to be so useful to mankind

“At four o'clock the invalid, seated in an ordinary arm chair, was mesmerised by Mr. Delente, who had several times before sent him into the mesmeric sleep. After the expiration of two minutes, M. Baysset's eyes by degrees began to close; the upper eyelids were agitated with a slight trembling, and pressed upon the globe of the eye, which seemed to be convulsed under the superciliary arch of the eyebrow. The muscles of the neck became gently relaxed, the head inclined backwards, and rested upon the back of the chair. The invalid kept his two arms crossed upon the pit of his stomach; *his countenance expressed the most profound serenity*. The mesmerist then pushed a long sharp-pointed probe several times deeply into the flesh, *the patient not appearing to be aware of the experiment to which he was subjected*.

“In the mean time Dr. Loysel got his instruments ready, while the other physicians present were preparing themselves to assist in the operation. At forty minutes past four o'clock, the first cut was made, which produced a large opening, extending from the left and back part of the lower jaw bone to the centre of the chin. The operator then carefully dissected away a considerable mass, which presented *seven* united glands, the largest of which had the form and size of a *hen's egg*.

“This first dissection occupied at least *ten minutes*, notwithstanding the dexterity with which it was performed. During *all* this period the patient appeared *perfectly passive*; *no motion was apparent in the features*; *his countenance was uninterruptedly calm*; and, what was remarkable, there was not the *least decline of colour in the complexion*, not the *least contraction of the eyebrows*, or any sign whatever disclosing the slightest pain. The spectators were all deeply affected; some were even so terrified at the sight of this enormous wound, that they were unable to support it, and left the apartment.

"The *pulse*, the state of which had been ascertained at the commencement, had *not varied*: it remained, *as before*, at 84; the *motion of the chest continued regular* and in strict relation with the beating of the heart.

"After a repose of ten minutes, Dr. Loysel made a new incision on the right side, and extirpated two other glands in the same manner. The patient remained exactly in the same state as during the first operation, preserving an *inexpressible tranquillity and immobility*.

"The two operations together occupied 29 minutes including the *interval* of rest. Afterwards, one of the spectators who had been intensely interested, questioned the patient in the following manner:—

"How do you find yourself?

"Very well, sir.

"Do you suffer now? Have you suffered at all?

"No sir, not at all!"

"At 31 minutes past five, the dressing was begun. The edges of the first wound were united with five pins run through the tissues, and this lasted four minutes. The second wound was closed with one pin, and then some adhesive plasters were applied upon both wounds. The dressing terminated at 57 minutes past five. Every thing calculated to produce a disagreeable impression upon the mind of the patient was then taken out of the room; and after being washed and dressed, he was awakened by his mesmeriser in less than one minute.

"Restored to his ordinary condition, young M. Baysset, whose tranquillity and comfortable condition still continued, declared to the numerous witnesses of the operation,—who interrogated him with much eagerness and lively emotion,—that he had no remembrance, no knowledge, of what had taken place; that *he did not suffer anything*; and, were it not for the bandages which surrounded his head, he should doubt whether the operation had been performed. He thanked Dr. Loysel, M. Delente, and the physicians around him affectionately; he afterwards withdrew, going on foot, without support, to his home, at Equeurdreville, about two kilometres from Cherbourg.

"The following individuals, who were present at the operation, have certified to the above facts:—

"MESSRS.

"Noël-Agnes, Sous-préfet of the Arrondissement.

"Obet, M.D. Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine.

- "Gibon, M.D., Paris.
 - "Bordonne, Naval Surgeon.
 - "Boëlle, Naval Surgeon.
 - "Rauline, Chaplain of the Naval Hospital.
 - "Chevrel, authorised Member of the Council of the Arrondissement.
 - "Coutace, Director of the Military Stores.
 - "Durand, Professor of Philosophy.
 - "De Roussel, Naval Engineer.
 - "Lieut. Lacombe, R.N.
 - "Ricard, Professor of Magnetology.
 - "Doisnel, 'Propriétaire.'
 - "Vergness, 'Enseigne de Vaisseau.'
 - "Darragon, Professor.
 - "Ford, Esq., from Eaton College.
 - "Auguste Jean, Merchant.
 - "Adolphe Lambert, 'Propriétaire.'
 - "L'Emprière, jun., Merchant.
 - "Pesnel,
 - "Lepoivre,
 - "Lellemaud,
 - "F. Grave,
- } Inhabitants of Equeurdreville."

When will the naval surgeons of the opposite English coast go and do likewise? I shewed some of them how to mesmerise a patient, insane and cataleptic for years, last autumn, at Haslar Hospital, when on a visit to Dr. Engledue, at Portsmouth, but fear I failed to excite even the faintest interest.

The French operation has been published in the *Chester Chronicle*, which, like some other provincial papers sets an example to the timid and worldly-wise editors of most London newspapers, by continually publishing mesmeric facts, and quoting *The Zoist*, of which the latter are almost as shy as doctors. The Chester Editor prefaces his translation with saying:—

"We trust the leading men on the other side the channel will persevere in their God-like mission,—the alleviation of human suffering, ever bearing in mind that true philosophy pursues truth regardless of consequences, well knowing that the highest attribute of the Deity and the Saviour is ETERNAL TRUTH; and that the bright example of Catholic Cherbourg will not be lost sight of by the provinces of Protestant England. Truth is immutable! it is the lens of the mind through which she is viewed that must be purified of its rust, ignorance, pride, selfishness, and prejudice.

"The illustrious Louis Philippe recently granted to Captain Peel (the winner of the Paris Steeple Race) the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Will that great sovereign—the promoter of peace and human happiness—withhold from the philanthropists, Professors Durand and Delente, that honourable distinction?"

III. *Removal of a large Tumor from the back of a woman in America.*

I extract the following from the *New York Herald* :—

"SURGICAL OPERATION ON A MESMERIC PATIENT.—We, in company with a number of other persons, among whom were several medical gentlemen, yesterday were witnesses to a surgical operation performed on a patient while in the mesmeric state, which, to say the least, entirely puzzled us. The patient was a coloured servant girl, named Emmeline Brown, about 33 years of age, who has been living in the family of the Rev. Dr. Higbee. She has been, for some time past, afflicted with a large tumor upon her back, immediately under the left shoulder blade, and has tried various remedies to cure it. She at last concluded to have it cut out, and for that purpose called on Dr. Homer Bostwick, of No. 75, Chambers Street. Dr. Bostwick, who has always been sceptical upon the subject of magnetism, thought this might be a good case to test it, and called upon Dr. Öltz, a magnetic practitioner, living near him. Dr. Öltz, after seeing the girl, expressed perfect confidence in his power to place her in the magnetic state, so that the operation could be performed without the patient's experiencing any pain. Dr. Öltz commenced magnetizing her, and succeeded in putting her asleep; the first time in half an hour. Between that time, which was last Wednesday, and yesterday, when the operation was performed, he had magnetized her five times. The operation was performed at No. 142, Church Street, about four o'clock. Dr. Öltz, assisted by Dr. E. J. Pike, commenced in the usual manner to magnetize her about half-past three, and by four o'clock the girl was sound asleep, and apparently insensible. There were at this time about a dozen persons in the room. Dr. Öltz now said the patient was ready, and left the room, leaving Dr. Pike holding the hand of the girl, with one hand upon her forehead. The girl, before being magnetized, was sitting in a chair with her head lying forward upon a pillow on a table. The upper part of the dress was removed, and Dr. Bostwick, putting on his apron, and taking his instruments, prepared to commence. He first made a longitudinal incision, eight inches in length, through the flesh over the tumor, and then

commenced cutting round it. When the knife was first put in we were watching the face of the girl closely, expecting to see her start, and hear her scream; but there was not the slightest motion. She lay *as still and motionless as a marble statue*. Not a quivering of the lip or of the eye-lid could we observe. Dr. Bostwick, assisted by Dr. Childs and Dr. Stearns, continued cutting away upon the tumor, and in three minutes it was taken out, there being, during the whole time, no motion on the part of the girl. During the whole operation Dr. Pike sat near the patient with his hand upon her head. *Several physicians examined the pulse, and said it was apparently in a natural state*. Dr. Bostwick then, with a large darning needle, sewed up the incision, there still *being no motion of muscle or nerve on the part of the patient*. After placing adhesive plaster upon the incision, and bandaging it, Dr. Oltz was called in to wake up the girl. This he did by making passes over her face; and upon waking she was told that the operation had not been performed, and that she must now have it done. This was done to see whether she would know anything about it. 'Well,' she said, '*she was sorry but she wanted it taken out*.' 'Do you feel no pain?' asked Dr. Bostwick. 'None,' said the girl. 'Have you felt none?' 'None,' was the answer again. She was then shown the tumor, and seemed to be very glad to see it out. It was an adipose tumor, and weighed 10 ounces. We then left the house extremely puzzled. The persons present who witnessed the operation were Dr. Homer Bostwick, Dr. John Stearns, Dr. Samuel R. Childs, Dr. Eleazer Parmly, Dr. Sherwood, Dr. E. J. Pike, W. H. Stinemets, E. L. Fancher, M. G. Hart, Oliver Johnson, John R. S. Van Vleit, and Edward Gould Buffum. The time from which the operation was first commenced till she was awakened was just 30 minutes."—*May 6, 1846.*

IV. Removal of a Tumor in America.

I copy the following from the *Bermuda Royal Gazette* of the 17th of last March, for which I am indebted to Mr. Clarke, of Kingsland, who was formerly my pupil at University College, and has invariably supported mesmerism.

"MESMERISM AND SURGERY.—On Tuesday last a surgical operation was performed on a lady in Byron, when she was in a magnetic sleep, which is of so novel a character in this vicinity, as to be worthy of notice.

"The lady is Mrs. Tuttle the wife of Mr. Nelson Tuttle, a respectable farmer in Byron; the magnetizer was Mr. J. C. Walker, a gentleman who is teaching a school in the neigh-

bourhood of Mr. Tuttle. The operation was the removal of a tumor from the shoulder partly over the joint; the operator was Dr. John Cotes, of this village.

"The facts, as related to us are briefly these: Mrs. Tuttle who is about thirty years of age, had been troubled with the tumor for several years, and when its removal was determined upon, the idea occurred to Mr. Walker, (who it appears is an adept in mesmerism), that it might better be performed when she was under the influence of magnetism. He accordingly magnetized her seven or eight times between the 8th and 17th instant, on which day the operation was to be performed as arranged between the husband and doctor, though unknown to the patient.

"When Dr. Cotes arrived at 12 o'clock, she was in the magnetic sleep and had been so half an hour. Dr. Lynd, of Byron, and some fifteen or twenty other persons were present, and the operation was performed at half-past one—it occupied about three minutes, and during the whole performance the patient appeared to be *perfectly tranquil and unconscious* of what was going on. The tumor was about three inches long by two and a half broad, and to extirpate it required an external incision *six inches* long, and then to be dissected from the bone. She was kept in the mesmeric state for three hours after the operation, making five hours in all, and when Mr. Walker awoke her she was perfectly unconscious of all that had transpired.

"Whatever opinions may be entertained of animal magnetism in the abstract, this case is too strongly authenticated to admit of doubt."

V. VI. VII. *Extraction of Teeth.*

I have now to record some operations performed by a Professor of King's College, and testified by another Professor of King's College. The operator was no other than Mr. Thos. Bell, the Zoologist, an honest, virtuous man. Read and ponder upon this, ye Professors of University College, and ye gentlemen of the council. It is absolutely come to this for me. The Sybil's prophecy is fulfilled,—

Via prima salutis,
Quod minime reris, Graia pandetur ab urbe.

I have received the following letter from Mr. Chandler for *The Zoist*.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

"Sir.—When I concluded my last communication by hoping to have some interesting matter for you before July,

I little expected to have it in my power to send you anything so highly important as the following case. What will the Brodies and the rest of the clausopates say now? it is well known what some of them think. Why do they not open their eyes and see, and abandon their wilful ignorance?

"James Payne, æt. 23, a stout healthy sailor, was present some months ago whilst I was mesmerising Holdsworth; on seeing her go to sleep he became alarmed and ran out of the room, but, after a little persuasion he was induced to return, and after a time he even submitted to be mesmerised. Six minutes put him asleep and rendered him cataleptic the first time.

"Finding he had a molar tooth that he wished to have extracted, I recommended him to let me mesmerise him a few days, in order to draw it during the sleep. He submitted; but on his fourth visit he said he must have the tooth drawn, as he was going to sea the next day. I accordingly with much reluctance extracted it.

"In April, 1846, he again presented himself, wishing to lose the fellow tooth on the opposite side, it being very troublesome; he also expressed a wish to be mesmerised, that he might not suffer so much pain as with the last. I readily consented, knowing him to be still very susceptible, as I had mesmerised him four or five times during the interval, for the purpose of showing that a strong healthy man could be mesmerised. I entranced him six times for about twenty minutes each time; and finding him quite insensible to the prick of a needle in any part of the body, I felt quite confident of success; and accordingly, on the 14th of April, took him to Mr. Bell, who had kindly consented to operate. His account of the case will be read with the greatest interest and will render any further account of the operation quite unnecessary. One circumstance I may mention which struck me very forcibly, proving the perfect unconsciousness of all that passed. After the extraction of the tooth, the mouth remained open and the head back, just as I had placed them before the operation. I can produce insensibility in this patient in any part of the body, when he is in his natural state, so that he might look at his arm or his leg whilst being amputated without suffering the slightest pain. The same occurs in two or three other patients. I sometimes mesmerise one hand, and whilst they prick themselves with a pin on that hand, I gently blow upon it and sensation instantly returns.

"The following is a copy of Professor Bell's account of the case.

"James Payne was brought to me by Mr. Chandler on

Tuesday morning, April the 14th, 1846, in order that a tooth might be removed, whilst in a state of mesmeric trance. He is a healthy, vigorous young man, with a countenance expressive of remarkable simplicity and good humour. On being placed in a chair, Mr. Chandler proceeded to throw him into the mesmeric trance, which was effected in about a minute, or a minute and a half. The right hand was then raised, and it remained in a state of entire rigidity, and on being pricked on the hand and face with a pin, not the slightest indication of feeling was evinced. He was then restored to consciousness, and I examined the state of the teeth. I found on the left side of the upper jaw that the second bicuspid and the first molar were considerably decayed; and that on introducing a small instrument, the latter was very tender, shewing exposure of the pulp. He was then again thrown into the mesmeric trance, and on introducing the instrument much more freely, and thoroughly probing the cavity, the only indication of any sensation being felt was a slight movement of the tongue towards the tooth. Mr. Chandler then asked him in a very low whisper whether he felt any pain? To which he replied in as low a whisper, "Very little." A few more passes entirely removed this sensibility, and the *free probing of the tooth-pulp produced no apparent effect.*



"The head was now placed against the back of the chair, and the mouth opened by Mr. Chandler, and they remained immovable. I then with a pair of forceps removed the molar tooth, which was *unusually firm*, the roots being not only very divergent but bent. Not the slightest indication was evinced of pain or of sensation. A sponge was placed against the orifice of the alveolus to receive the blood, and I closed the gum. Mr. Chandler then restored the patient, who on coming to himself smiled, and appeared wholly unconscious of what had taken place; and on being asked, "Well, where is your tooth?" He looked surprised and said, "It's gone, Sir." I asked him if he was conscious of having suffered pain, and he assured me that he did not know that anything had been done; that he had no recollection of feeling any pain. On the whole the case was perfectly satis-

factory to me as well as to my friend, Professor Edward Forbes, who was present, and who will attest the accuracy of this report.

“ ‘ THOMAS BELL, F.R.S. F.R.C.S.

“ ‘ Professor of Zoology in King’s College, London,
“ ‘ and Lecturer on Dental Surgery at Guy’s Hospital.’ ”

“ Copy of certificate from Professor Forbes.

“ ‘ I was present when Professor Bell extracted a tooth from the man, Payne, when thrown into a mesmeric trance by Mr. Chandler. I fully attest the accuracy of the above statement.

“ ‘ The patient was strong and healthy. When awake, he evidently suffered pain on the probing of the decaying tooth; but during its extraction, when he was in the mesmeric trance, he did not exhibit the slightest symptoms of pain or inconvenience. After the operation he did not shew any signs of fatigue or distress.

“ ‘ EDWARD FORBES,

“ ‘ Professor of Botany, King’s College, London.’ ”

“ These statements were sent to me with the greatest readiness, on my only hinting to Professors Bell and Forbes that I should like a line from each of them, and the former declared that he should not fail to name the circumstance in his lectures at Guy’s next session. I will endeavour to place it in his power to shew the class a living demonstration.

“ Yours, obediently,

“ THOMAS CHANDLER.

“ 58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,

“ April 22nd, 1846.”

“ TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

“ Sir,—If not too late for insertion in the July number, I shall feel obliged by your adding the following account of further operations by Mr. Bell to my previous communication.

“ On May 12th, I took Mr. Ford, my epileptic patient, to Mr. Bell, by appointment, to have a tooth extracted during the mesmeric sleep, which was done most satisfactorily,—indeed even more so than the previous case,—for he submitted to the *usually* very painful operation of extraction by the elevator—(which was continued for above *five* minutes)—*without* his evincing the *slightest* symptom of pain; and on my awaking him, he declared he had no knowledge of anything having been done. There were present during the operation, Dr. F. Ramsbotham, Messrs. Luke, Hilton, Lewis, and

Beale, who all admitted that there was some very extraordinary effect; but one or two of them wished to see a little more before expressing their opinions on the subject, and by Mr. Bell's great kindness I was soon enabled to give them an opportunity.

"An appointment was made for Wednesday, June 3rd, and I accordingly attended with my two patients who had been previously operated on, both of whom had been anxiously waiting to have more teeth extracted. Payne was first submitted to the operation; he lost a bicuspid as before *without moving a muscle*. I next mesmerised Mr. Ford, who wished to lose the stumps of two superior molars. Mr. Luke, who was again present, held his pulse during the several operations, which lasted at least ten minutes, and he declared that there was *no variation in the pulse, nor the slightest muscular movement in the hand or arm*. Mr. Bell, with his usual skill and dexterity, extracted with the elevator the six fangs, *all separately*; I awaking the patient twice during the time for the purpose of allowing him to wash the blood from his mouth, as well as to prevent any choking noise in the throat, which on the former occasion was construed by a sceptic present into a groan. There were present besides Mr. Luke, Messrs. Fergusson, B. Curling, Adams, &c., &c., in all above a dozen, and *each one expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the reality of the phenomena*; indeed several of them promised to sign a statement of the case, which Mr. Bell very kindly offered to draw up, and which I hope to get completed in time to send with this.

"Mr. Bell has behaved most handsomely; he deserves the best thanks of all who are interested in mesmerism, having devoted much of his valuable time to the advancement of our interesting science.

"Many persons, even some professional men, run away with the idea that a patient can be mesmerised and rendered insensible to pain at one sitting; and several persons have come long distances to me with that impression, and have been much disappointed when informed that such was not the fact; for although such cases do occur, they are rare; two or three have happened in my practice, and several of my patients have been quite fit for any operation after being mesmerised five or six times.

"I cannot conclude this communication without adverting to the foul and cowardly slander contained in the *Lancet* of last week (June 13th); foul, because it contains nothing but personal abuse of Dr. Elliotson without the shadow of an argument; and cowardly, because the *Lancet* admits no reply

into its columns. The editor of that scurrilous journal does well to laugh whilst he may; the time will arrive when he will have to alter his tone, and when no hospital surgeon will venture to operate without first trying the effects of mesmerism to alleviate the sufferings of his patients *during and after* his operations.

"I remain,

"Yours obediently,

"THOMAS CHANDLER.

"58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,

"June 17th, 1846."

"On the 3rd of June, 1846, I again saw the patient Payne, on whom I had previously operated, for the purpose of removing a bicuspid tooth, which I did in the presence of several professional friends, when he had been placed in a state of mesmeric sleep by his medical attendant, Mr. Chandler. The result was in all respects similar to that of the former operation. Not the slightest indication was afforded of his being even conscious of the operation, not a muscular movement took place, nor was there any change in the pulse, which was held by Mr. Luke during the operation.

"I afterwards, in the presence of the same gentlemen, removed six stumps, some by means of the forceps, and the rest by the elevator, for another person, a respectable man named Ford, who did not exhibit any indications of sensation during the operation, and declared afterwards, on being awakened, that he had not been in any way cognizant of the operation being performed.

"In both cases *severe pain* must have been suffered, had the patients not been in the mesmeric sleep.

"THOMAS BELL.

"The undersigned, who were present at the operation above mentioned, attest the accuracy of the statement.

"W. Fergusson, Professor of Surgery in King's College, and Surgeon to King's College Hospital.

"E. Forbes, Professor of Botany in King's College.

"James Luke, Surgeon to the London Hospital.

"John Adams, Assistant-Surgeon to the London Hospital."

Similar testimony is given by three other gentlemen who were present, and, though not medical men, are all addicted to scientific pursuits. They are,

Mr. M. J. Rippingham, Solicitor, Gt. Prescot Street.

Mr. C. Richardson, Merchant, Dalston Rise.

Mr. J. Holland, Merchant, New Cross, Lambeth.

The first, in his letter of testimony to Mr. Chandler, states that, "EVERY ONE in the room was equally satisfied:" the last, that "ALL PRESENT appeared to be astonished beyond measure, and expressed their conviction that the whole of the operations had been effected without occasioning any pain to the patients, and he did not observe that any doubt was entertained of the further fact, that the patients were not cognizant of them during their progress," "and ALL expressed their willingness to sign a declaration which it was understood should be drawn up by Mr. B., and which he stated (voluntarily) should be limited to mere facts."

VIII. I copy the following from the *Plymouth and Devonport Weekly Journal*, April 16th, 1846.

"Sir,—Observing from time to time that the columns of your paper have been open to the subject of mesmerism, I offer you the statement of a case which came under my notice on Tuesday last. I was applied to on that day to extract a tooth for a gentleman who always felt excessively nervous and excited at an operation of the kind, and who had, therefore, consented on the present occasion to have his tooth extracted while under the mesmeric influence. He was accompanied by a friend, who having mesmerised him and ascertained that he was quite insensible to pain, I examined the tooth, which was an upper bicuspid; it was in a most carious state, with the gum highly inflamed. I extracted it without his manifesting the slightest symptom of pain. Before he was demesmerised I removed everything that might give any appearance of an operation having taken place; and on his being awake I asked him if his tooth was still painful, he replied no, and that the pain had quite subsided. On other questions being put to him as to the sensibility of the tooth, he said it was tender to the touch. I requested him to put up his finger and feel whether it was still sensitive. On his doing so he shewed great astonishment and delight, exclaiming 'Oh! you have taken it out; how glad I am.' He assured me he was not at all conscious of its extraction, and that he had not suffered the slightest pain. Should you deem the above worthy a place in your next publication, you are at liberty to insert it.

"Your obedient servant,

"C. W. Fox.

"Princess Square, April 16th, 1846."

I was favoured with the *Plymouth paper* by Mr. Fry, and this note accompanied it.

" Plymouth, April 18th.

" Dear Sir,—I send you another case of tooth extraction in the *Plymouth Journal* of last Thursday. It is written by the dentist, who is one of our first practitioners, and had never before operated upon a mesmeric subject.

" I am,

" Yours faithfully,

" E. FAY.

" To Dr. Elliotson."

IX. X. The following I received from Dr. Storer of Bath:—

" 9th June, 1846.

" My Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to enclose two cases, which I hope will be found sufficiently interesting for *The Zoist*. The other cases referred to I shall remit on a future occasion, thinking it most prudent to allow more time to elapse to prevent medical cavilling in case of any relapse.

" I am happy to say we have at Bath a good many quiet believers, amongst these a few medical men: there are also many opponents in the profession, but I invariably find these to consist of the most ignorant, prejudiced, and routine classes.

" Trusting your labours in the cause are now duly appreciated, I beg to subscribe myself with much respect,

" Yours very faithfully,

" 27, Brook St., Bath.

HENRY STORER.

" To Dr. Elliotson."

" TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

" *Two Painless Operations of Teeth Extraction.*

" Sir,—As it is units which make numbers, and coinciding with the opinion expressed in your last journal, that all operations without pain should at least be noticed, I think the fact of two occurring in one week to a private practitioner, will be considered sufficiently interesting for your pages. I cannot omit this opportunity of thanking the editor of *The Zoist*, for the great and valuable amount of information which that journal contains: the last number in particular, must be considered a staggering if not a crushing one, to the opponents of mesmerism, and were it generally circulated and read, an impetus would be given to the subject which would almost defy further opposition: however, knowing the value of your space, I will not further digress, but give at once an abstract of the two cases above referred to:—

" The first was that of a youth placed under my care

for epilepsy; he is nearly, if not quite well, his case presents several very interesting phenomena, he is a lucid somnambulist and clairvoyant; but further particulars I shall reserve until I forward you his case with two or three others of epilepsy, successfully cured by mesmerism alone. The youth in question is the son of respectable parents residing at Primrose Hill, Bath. The extraction of a tooth being necessary, I called on Mr. Edwards, the dentist, before a stranger to me, and made an appointment with him for Tuesday last, —I also invited several parties to witness the results.—Having mesmerised the youth, I then placed the dentist *en rapport*, who at once proceeded to his part of the operation, by the skilful extraction of a molar tooth; during this period, the patient was closely watched by the spectators, and not the slightest appreciable indication of pain could be detected: on being demesmerised and closely questioned, the youth declared his entire ignorance of what had occurred. From this united testimony, we may safely conclude, that no pain was actually felt, however impossible such a fact may appear to some *soi-disant* philosophers.”

“The next operation took place four days afterwards, the lad is living in my service. Mr. Edwards, the same dentist, having decided on the necessity of the tooth being extracted, I again asked a large party of the highest respectability; there were also present three gentlemen connected with the press, who gave faithful reports in the local papers. The lad was mesmerised by me in about three minutes; his case presents a striking contrast to the other,—coma to a great degree takes place, and it is only by the excitation of particular organs, that I am enabled in the least to arouse him from this state:—after sleep was induced, I opened his mouth, and by passes rendered his jaw rigid and fixed. The dentist being as before placed *en rapport*, (an important point), freely lanced the gum, and by a powerful wrench, extracted a double-fanged molar tooth. The jaw was then demesmerised, the lad was made to wash out his mouth by imitation and the will—a piece of cotton was also inserted in the cavity.

“Throughout this period, though closely watched, it was the *unanimous* conviction of all present, that *not the slightest* indication of pain could be discovered.

“The lad, on being awoke, seemed quite incredulous of the result, until, from the taste of blood, he put his fingers into his mouth, and then half smiling, said ‘you have got my tooth out then.’

“These operations were witnessed by upwards of thirty

r Forbes, Linton, Wakley, Rumball, Jones, Smith, &c.

individuals, and wishing to afford every facility to the knowledge of the fact—I invited several medical men, but *only two or three* came. Making all allowance for professional engagements, I am inclined to think some purposely did not come, lest they should have had conviction brought to their minds. Others from being so long accustomed to witness painful operations, would probably receive too severe a shock in seeing painless ones, but even this might have been useful, in their present state of transition, which is being forced upon them by common sense and pressure from without.

“I am, Sir, yours obediently,

“HENRY STOREY, M.D.

“27, Brook Street, Bath.”

* * Here are our metropolitan hospital surgeons thrown into the shade again. Not one operation has yet been performed by them in the mesmeric state. While you, Baron de Goldsmid, add wings to the University College Hospital, from which mesmerism was driven through the machinations of the medical officers without your once threatening to withdraw your hitherto all-necessary support, you make no stipulation for the patients to have the mercies of mesmerism, which you know and declare to be true. You must have been listened to had you urged the duty in your speeches at their annual hospital dinners, when you nobly brought such large collections from your nation to aid Christians.—*Zoist*.

XI. We have received the following from an authentic source.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Sir.—On the 15th of April last, between one and two o'clock, a number of persons were assembled in the surgery of the Middlesex Hospital: some foreigners were there, Sir Benjamin Smith and a few other governors of the hospital too, all attracted by the report that the extraction of a tooth was to take place while the patient was under mesmeric influence. Soon Dr. Ashburner and some other of the medical staff of the hospital appeared, accompanied by Mary Anne Douglas, a delicate-looking slight girl, about 20 years of age, who had been cured by mesmerism of hysterical epilepsy, after various efforts had been made in vain to effect a cure by the ordinary remedies. Dr. Ashburner mesmerised this patient in a minute, and produced rigidity of her muscles by the application of a sovereign to the nape of her neck. While she was in that state, Mr. Tomes, the dentist of the Hospital,

removed a large carious permanent molar tooth from the right side of her lower jaw. When she was awakened she was quite certain that the tooth had not been removed, and she could not be persuaded of the fact until she ascertained the point by putting her finger into her mouth to examine the cavity. A very natural question was asked by several persons present at this operation, "Why do not the surgeons of the hospital resort to this mode of preventing the pain of operations?" Dr. Ashburner addressed Mr. Arnott, the senior surgeon, who was soon to amputate the foot of a poor girl in Northumberland Ward: he offered Mr. Arnott, if he would consent to postpone the operation for a week, to prepare the unfortunate creature to undergo the amputation without her being cognizant of it; and was emphatically refused. How can the surgeons of London go on apparently evincing such pleasure in giving pain? Here was a case which might easily have been prepared for a painless operation. The young woman's susceptibility to mesmeric sleep had been tested and she could easily have been made for any given time quite insensible to pain. But no! it was not to be permitted. If surgeons did their duty, they would learn the fact, that there is not the slightest necessity to lop off such limbs. Continual mesmerism would have cured that poor creature. For some reason which they either cannot or *dare* not give, the opponents of those *truths which must force their way* seem banded together to perform in each surgical operation an act of gross cruelty. We have a right to canvass the motives of those who, pretending to be men of science, are throwing every obstacle in the path of scientific progress. Mr. Arnott is too cautious a man to acknowledge that *he* is actuated by the sordid love of gain, that *he* fears the disapprobation of the brutal and the ignorant, who set themselves up, on the score of a pretence of exclusive piety, against the holy truths which the great ruler of the universe has revealed to mankind through the labours of Faraday, Baron von Reichenbach, and others.^q But there are men who, believing in mesmerism and its powers, confess that they dare not avow their faith. There are men in the station of gentlemen, bound by oath to support the *dignity* of the profession and advance the interests of science, mean enough to succumb to the pre-

^q Mr. Arnott is a very sound surgeon and an excellent man. He was the only pure Surgeon that did himself credit at the Medical and Chirurgical Society, when the case of painless amputation was read, saying, "that the statement was highly interesting and the subject deserving of attention." His present conduct is referrible to nothing but a want of moral courage. See Dr. Elliotson's Pamphlet, p. 56.—*Zoist*.

judices of the ignorant and the vulgar. They ought to know that truth is not to be overcome. They ought to feel that their mission is to aid in the advancement of knowledge. They ought to be aware that humanity claims of them a devotion to her service. How do they evince the chivalrous spirit of gentlemen? Is it by investigating the facts daily brought under their observation,—*facts* which relate to the alleviation of pain and other suffering,—*facts* which relate to the cure of the worst diseases,—*facts* which relate to the existence of new imponderable agents, and which relate to the philosophy of the mind enlarging the boundaries of knowledge, serving to forward the improvement of education, and to widen our scope in the amelioration of the whole human race. They know these things and they refuse investigation!

Duty leads the soldier to the battle. His life, his domestic ties, all that are dear to him are nothing in the balance when weighed against his honor. He is ready and willing to sacrifice all if it be his duty. The medical calling has been held up as one which has emulated the chivalry of the military profession. Fine things have been said of devotion to the interests of humanity,—of the self abandonment to the interests of science and so forth. Behold a contrast instead of an analogy! A barbarous love of cruelty in performing operations, many of which might be entirely prevented by mesmeric cures,—most of which might be rendered painless by mesmeric sleep. A mulish contumacy to the reception of the plainest facts. A sordid fear lest the advancing under the banners of truth should render these *chivalrous gentlemen* liable to be hit by a shot in their repositories of honour—their pockets and their purses. Our hospital physicians and surgeons have had ample opportunities afforded them of testing the efficacy of mesmerism as an agent in the cure of disease,—as an agent in the alleviation of suffering,—as an agent in the prevention of pain, when an operation has been deemed advisable. They are now challenged at the bar of public opinion, to come forward and declare why they refuse to do their duty in investigating the facts so often reiterated by respectable authorities in *The Zoist*, and in other publications. With honour they cannot shrink from the challenge. The facts in Europe, Asia, and America, are too numerous to allow of the tabooing of mesmerism by authority. In the provinces, the public are enquiring why the medical profession do not investigate the subject. Information is sought with avidity, and if the pill and potion lovers and the doers of cruel operations do not perform their duty, they must be content to let their names pass down

the stream of time as either stupid or sordid practitioners of their art!

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

INDIGNANT TRUTH.

IV. *Cure of an Alleged Cancer of the Breast.* By Messrs. FLINTOFF and FRADELLE.

CATHERINE RYAN, 42 years of age, accidentally received a blow on the right breast on the 26th of May, 1841, and first consulted the late Dr. Davis about it, at the University College Hospital. About a month after the accident, the breast was considerably swelled and very painful. She became an out-door patient for two months, and had twelve leeches applied to it every other day during that time. But getting worse, she applied to Sir Astley Cooper, who ordered medicine and ointment, but gave her to understand she must *lose the breast*. She went the following week to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at the desire of Mr. Pennington, formerly a student of that institution, to meet Mr. Stanley, who recommended her to remain, informing her she had *CANCER*; but she declined.

Lady Robert Seymour, of 27 Portland Place, then gave her a letter of recommendation, to be treated as an out-door patient of the Middlesex Hospital, under the care of Mr. Tuson; and she continued to attend there till Nov. 2nd, when she was received as an in-door patient, and on the 20th of the same month, *she underwent the operation*. Mr. Arnott performed it.

Two months before she had become an in-door patient, Mr. Tuson discovered that the *left breast* "*was affected with the same complaint*;" to use his own words: belladonna plasters were applied to it, and occasionally leeches. Mr. Tuson informed Mr. Arnott of it, who after examining it exclaimed, "*Dear, dear,—so it is!*" and directed his attention to that as well as to the other breast, till the operation took place. Mr. Arnott *told her to make up her mind to have the remaining breast also removed*; wishing to impress on her that it would be better for her, as she must lose it at some time or other. On the 8th of January, 1842, Mrs. Ryan was transferred from the Northumberland to the *Cancer Ward*, when Mr. Arnott *again proposed the operation*. *A large ticket with the words CANCER BREAST was placed over the head of her bed.*

* The ticket with the words '*Cancer Breast*' had the name of Mr. Arnott upon it as well as the patient's; thus:

MR. ARNOTT.
CANCER BREAST.
CATHERINE RYAN.

She remained in this ward till the 13th of May following. Ever since the operation, her strength had gradually failed, and declining the proposed operation, she was removed to Handel's Ward, whence, after remaining three weeks, she was discharged. She had the benefit of the shower bath on this occasion to strengthen her left side, which had become paralyzed. Mr. Arnott declared *that all that could had been done*; that the confined air of the hospital did not agree with her, and that it was better for her to leave it. The porter of the institution had to carry her out (though she had walked in) and put her in a cab, as she was utterly unable to walk and even to stand.

Nov. 24th, 1842. Mrs. R. entered Guy's Hospital under the care of Dr. Bright and Mr. Aston Key. Mr. Bransby Cooper and Mr. Aston Key pronounced her case to be DECIDED CANCER, and told her *she must lose her remaining breast*. Mr. Morgan termed it chronic tumor. Here she was somewhat relieved from pain by the application of several plasters. Two months after leaving the hospital, the breast was worse than ever.

Mr. Cooper, of the Bloomsbury Dispensary, seeing the state it was in, *proposed to perform the operation*.

Mr. Bishop, of the Northern Dispensary, *advised her to undergo it* by the same operator who had performed the first, yet said, he thought "*it was too far gone*." Both these gentlemen said she had CANCER.

July 20th. She entered the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, through the kindness and interest of Lady Inglis, and was under Mr. Taylor. She had leeches applied every other day, hot poultices after, took powders, mixtures, and pills; was galvanized (for the paralysis), had warm sea-baths, shower-baths, and riding in the open air. She remained till February 25th, 1843, and Mr. Taylor told her the reason her limbs were in that state was the condition of her breast, and that, *if it were removed*, she would regain the use of them. Here her health was considerably improved, and the pain in her breast also diminished.

About three or four days after her return to London, she was re-admitted, at the request of Lady Inglis, into the Middlesex Hospital, under Mr. Shaw, and was reinstated in the Cancer Ward, *with the ticket, CANCER BREAST, placed as before*. Little was attempted on this occasion for her, and at the end of a fortnight she was again discharged in this perfectly helpless and destitute condition. Lady Inglis, who had been apprized by her long ago of her objection to the operation, had expressed a desire to her that if the operation

were again proposed, she should submit. But it, however, this time was *not*; and when Sir Robert Inglis requested to know the reason of her being so soon discharged, Mr. Forbes, house-surgeon, wrote in reply, that she could walk if she liked; that it was want of perseverance only that prevented her. Mr. Arnott had made the same statement to Lady Inglis a twelvemonth before.

Aug. 23rd, 1843. She was received into St. George's Hospital, considerably emaciated, under Dr. Nairne, for paralysis. On her mentioning to him the state of her breast, and her intention not to have it removed, he advised her not to have it touched, to let it alone, so as not to increase the irritation, and good-humouredly told her "to live as long as she could." She left January 14th, 1844.

March 23rd. She entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital under Dr. Hue. He called in Mr. Vincent to examine the breast, who *declared it to be affected with CANCER*; and added that the spine was also diseased, and that she required to be strengthened *previously to the removal of the CANCER*, that must ultimately take place. She left the hospital June 8th, the nurse having previously told her they would not have let her go so soon but that they expected her soon back for the operation. She however never returned to that or any other hospital.

She was taken home and has remained in her room (with two or three exceptions) ever since. Her *sufferings* at that time were *extreme*; the pain, frequently *darting* and *stabbing* (her own words) in her breast, would extend to the extremity of the fingers on her left hand. She could not bear the least pressure on the breast. The pain sometimes would prevent her from going to sleep, at others would awaken her with its severity. Her extremities were so cold, that even in summer she applied flannel to her feet. Her hearing and sight had become much impaired; the debility in her left arm prevented her from holding anything longer than a few minutes. She had lost all sensation,* as well as the power of motion, in her lower extremities. If she was raised and she attempted to stand, her knees immediately gave way under her. She could not turn in bed without holding the bedstead, and *could not lie on her left side*. Her appetite was bad, and her bowels had been in a torpid state for five years.

She continued thus till mesmerism was begun December,

* A palsied part may be insensible to pricking and cutting, and yet be very sensible of heat and cold, though many medical men are not aware of this, and we have heard students of St. George's Hospital stoutly deny it on the authority of their teachers.—*Zoist*.

1845, from which period she dates her first steps to recovery from her many complaints, and her improvement from her state of paralysis, being now able to use the left arm equally well with the right, and with equal strength; she can now, with the assistance of a chair, walk about the room, and even stand a little while unsupported. She feels warm and comfortable, and can easily turn on either side in bed. She soon goes to sleep and sleeps well, except when the noise in the neighbourhood disturbs her; for she has now perfectly recovered her hearing, and sometimes to her discomfort, since a noise which formerly was heard as a faint murmur, now stuns her. Her sight, too, is so good as to enable her to read small print, and to work without glasses, which she had hitherto used. Her appetite is improved, and her bowels act regularly without the aid of medicine, which she had not been able to dispense with for years. **EVERY VESTIGE OF DISEASE IN THE BREAST HAS DISAPPEARED.** It is *perfectly* cured. The tumor and hardness are not to be found, and she can bear pressure on the part without the least pain. A few weeks after mesmerism was begun, she observed the tumor to diminish. At first it was the size of a turkey's egg; in a month it was reduced to one-sixth of this size, and shortly after disappeared altogether. Those of her acquaintance who had not seen it, to whom she relates the fact, laugh at her and say she had no tumor; that it was all fancy. But she solemnly declares that all she can say about it is, that she "once had a bad breast, and that now it is well."

Previously to being mesmerised, she consulted, being a Roman Catholic, the clergyman who was in the habit of attending her, to know whether she might be mesmerised. He replied, that he knew good had been effected by it, and he could not therefore see any objection to it.*

The poor woman, though most intelligent and respectable, cannot write, but she thus certifies to the truth of the above.

The above is a correct statement,

Catherine Ryan's mark x.

Administration and Phenomena of Mesmerism in the Case.

Mesmerism, begun by Mr. Flintoff, Dec. 5th, 1845, was continued *an hour* each day with few exceptions till Jan. 9th, 1846, and for a fortnight longer about three times a week.

* The Rev. Hugh McNeile, Charlotte Elizabeth Tunna, and the other faustics of their class, should blush. They would surely not burn such a papist.—*Zoist*.

His mode of operating was to keep her attention fixed on a watch held above the level of her eyes. He looked intently at them, and made downward passes from the forehead to the chest. He placed his hand occasionally on her head. The staring made her eyes smart and run, and *sleep was not produced*. She, however, gradually regained strength during the whole of this time, sensibility in her lower extremities, and the power of moving her legs. No further progress appearing to be made, Mr. Flintoff gave up, at the request of Mr. Briggs, of Nottingham Place, who defrayed the expense of attendance upon her; that gentleman being desirous to see whether a change of operator would accelerate her cure. On January 27th, 1846, I therefore began to mesmerise her, and she went to sleep in fifty minutes, and passed into the sleep-waking state. I mesmerised her by holding her hands and looking steadily at her till her eyes appeared heavy, when I desired her to close them, and then directed passes slowly from the forehead to the epigastrium, and from the temples downwards. When I thought the effect complete, I enquired of her if she were asleep. She attempted a reply, but could not articulate distinctly. I continued the passes a little longer, when to the same question she answered plainly, "Yes;" said she felt very comfortable, and added, "But how strange it is!" I woke her at the end of half an hour; she was astonished at having slept, and *much refreshed*. She had lost all recollection of having been spoken to and of having answered. I mesmerised her daily till the 31st of March, from which time I have done so occasionally.

The sleep would continue till she was awakened out of it either by transverse passes or by blowing on her eyes. When told to sleep for twenty-four hours, she has done so, and taken her meals, and conversed with those about her through the day as rationally as when awake. She could be awakened, if she wished it, by others as well as myself, if for any reason she desired them to wake her. Less and less time, and at length five minutes only, were required to produce sleep.

There were no marked phenomena in her case, beyond extreme susceptibility of the mesmeric action. She could easily distinguish where the passes were directed, even through opaque substances,—a tea-board for instance. I once tried outside the room-door, and successfully, before two witnesses. It is from this susceptibility, I think, the labours of my predecessor and myself have been successful in so many respects. In *about a fortnight* after I had mesmerised her, the *tumor*, she told me, *appeared to diminish*, and gave her *much less pain*. I had directed passes *locally* without contact or even

touching the shawl she wore over her dress (for she suffered from the cold), pointing the ten fingers at the distance of a few inches off, and spreading the passes as from a centre. This would communicate a glow to the surrounding parts.

Thus at the end of six weeks the result exceeded my expectation. The tumor was gone! Mr. Flintoff kindly watched the progress made, and can bear testimony to what I assert.¹ Knowing she was in the constant habit of taking aperient pills, I mesmerised water with a view to remove the difficulty she suffered from. I repeated this from day to day, always successfully, but the action was checked if I purposely missed mesmerising the water. Finding this succeeded, I mesmerised it for a much longer time, and at last with the fixed idea that the effect *should* be permanent. The result has, up to this, proved so. Breathing in her ears, and pointing to their opening, removed her partial deafness. Her sight became stronger as her health returned. I used no passes to strengthen her eyes. The spine proved the most rebellious to my efforts, yet is considerably strengthened. Passes *made in front* of her she felt distinctly from the cervical vertebrae to the extremity of the spine, and great rigidity was felt at its lower region. I could never produce perfect rigidity in her arms or legs, yet I could communicate a feeling of warmth to the paralyzed side that would last for days. This warmth is now permanent.

I made a few attempts to excite the cerebral organs, but failed. She could easily distinguish the taste of mesmerised from other water in her sleep-waking state, but only then; and described it sparkling like soda-water, and extremely pleasant to the taste. I must not omit mentioning that shortly after having been mesmerised, she could in the natural waking state distinctly feel passes made even at a distance of eight or ten feet; and that her eyes could be closed when awake, so that she could not open them. On my leaving her mesmerised in her chair, and telling her to go to bed and wake at seven, eight, or any particular hour the following morning, the desired result ensued as *punctually* as the clock struck.

I may mention another mode I employed to invigorate her shattered frame. It was simply holding her hands firmly, and the mesmeric influence spread upwards till it had reached the shoulders, then descended slowly and gradually down the spine to the loins, and finally reached her feet; this was done for ten minutes.

H. J. FRADELLE.

No. 9, Percy Street, Fitzroy Square.

June 15th, 1846.

¹ See Mr. Flintoff's Case of Epilepsy, p. 242.

P.S. A few days ago she was enabled with the assistance of one person to descend the stairs, and afterwards, taking hold of two arms, to walk into the street at the distance of twenty yards; and after having been conveyed in a cab to chapel and back, returned in the same way up the court to her lodgings.

Not being a medical man I can give no opinion upon the nature of her disease. But Mr. Flintoff considered it was not cancer: and Dr. Elliotson, who visited her after the cure, told me that he "found a long seam on the flat and breastless right side where the cut had been made in the removal, and on the left a perfectly healthy breast, full, moveable, and soft, without the least spot of hardness; so that his impression was, that there had never been cancer of it, but such a tumor or induration as is often called cancer and cut away as cancer." *

. In consequence of this cure, Mr. Briggs, on being invited to attend the annual hospital dinner of the Middlesex Hospital, addressed the following letter to the Secretary.

27, Nottingham Place,
30th April, 1846.

SIR,—I have received your invitation to attend the annual dinner of the Middlesex Hospital, which I beg leave to decline, for two reasons. The first is, that I have long ceased to take any part in public dinners. The second, however, is of more importance, as, in my opinion, materially regarding the utility of the institution, and also affecting in some small degree its pecuniary resources; and therefore I think it right to state it frankly, in order that it may be submitted to the managing committee for their consideration.

Having become acquainted with the extraordinary efficacy of mesmerism in curing various diseases, which had baffled all the ordinary modes of treatment, I was desirous that several poor persons whom I knew should partake of its benefits, and accordingly applied at the Hospital to ascertain whether it would be employed or not; but, to my great regret, was answered in the negative. Upon my enquiring into the reason for refusing it, the only one assigned was that mesmerism is not *orthodox*. What may be the precise import of this mysterious theological term when applied to medicine, it is impossible for me to form an idea. If it be meant to forbid *every* innovation, however valuable, upon ancient practice, such a sweeping proscription appears to me little suited to the en-

* See his remarks on this point in Vol. IV., p. 9.

quiring spirit of the age we live in, and ill adapted to promote that progress in medical science which may reasonably be expected from the extensive experience to be gained in these large establishments. Instead of enquiring whether a proposed remedy had been used by our forefathers, it should seem that the only important point to be ascertained is, whether it has been found to be beneficial. Now on this head the evidence in favour of mesmerism is already most abundant, and is increasing daily, as it becomes more generally known; and the vast advantages to be derived from its adoption in hospital practice may be seen detailed in Dr. Esdaile's last report from Calcutta, published in *The Zoist* of this month, together with several other very interesting cures, of the truth of which there can be no doubt, from the respectability of the gentlemen whose names are affixed to them.* In confirmation of these and all other testimonies I have heard and read, I have had ocular demonstration of the clearest kind in several cases, two of which are so striking that I think it right to state them here. The first is that of a very poor woman, named Ryan, who several years ago was a patient in your Hospital, and was then labouring under a complication of most grievous maladies, consisting of cancerous swellings in both breasts, a diseased spine, insensibility of the lower extremities, and total inability to move them; her sight and hearing also were a good deal impaired. In order to get rid of the cancer, one of her breasts was taken off by Mr. Arnott, who also afterwards proposed to operate upon the other. To that, however, she objected, as being unable to bear a second amputation. She was then treated in the usual way for this and her other complaints, but with very little benefit, and after a considerable residence, partly in the cancer ward, she was discharged in a most deplorable condition. She has also been in several other hospitals in London and Brighton, but without finding any material relief. Under such most distressing circumstances I resolved that mesmerism should be tried upon her, as a last resource, and being precluded from it in the Hospital, I engaged Mr. Flintoff, of Titchfield Street, and afterwards, Mr. Fradelle, of Percy Street, to attend her, which they have done with such astonishing success that *the scirrhus tumor in her remaining breast, which had been getting worse and worse for five years, is entirely dispersed*, she is free from pain, the weakness in her back is removed, sensibility and the power of motion are restored to her limbs, and her sight and hearing are greatly improved. In short, she seems to be completely cured of all her appalling maladies,

* See Vol. III., p. 490, &c.; Vol. IV., p. 1, &c.

with the exception of a weakness in her knees, which I hope will ultimately yield to the same sanative influence. For the accuracy of these facts I can personally vouch, being in the constant habit of visiting Mrs. Ryan; and I mention them for the purpose of giving Mr. Arnott, or any other officers of the Hospital, an opportunity of verifying them by personal inspection. She lives at a little grocer's, No. 15, Compton Place, Compton Street, Tavistock Square, and will, I have no doubt, give every information that may be desired; for she is very intelligent.

I have also witnessed another remarkable cure effected in a very short time by the same means, upon a poor woman, named Donelly, living at No. 12, Coram Place, Little Coram Street, through the instrumentality of Mr. Hands, of Thayer Street. Her case was one of ulcerated uterus, with, I believe, prolapsus uteri, of which she was healed in about three weeks, after having been informed at the North London Hospital that nothing more could be done for her unless she would submit to an operation.*

With such instances as these before my eyes, in addition to all I hear and read on the subject, I cannot help feeling a strong desire that all the sick and infirm poor should partake of the benefit of this invaluable discovery,—of such potency to relieve many of the most formidable diseases incident to our nature, that too often bid defiance to all other modes of treatment.

But as the expense of paying gentlemen to attend upon any considerable number of sufferers would far exceed my means, I am exceedingly anxious that this work of mercy should be undertaken by a public institution, and do hope and trust the Middlesex Hospital will be the first to set the bright example. Great and manifold as would be the blessings thus conferred upon their afflicted fellow mortals, the Committee would have the additional satisfaction of reflecting that so much good might be accomplished not only without entailing upon the institution any increase of expenditure, but that a great saving might be effected, by shortening the process of cure, and thereby diminishing the cost of provisions and drugs, so that a much greater number might be admitted in the course of a year than are at present. This consideration appears to me well worth the attention of the committee; and, as connected with it, I think it proper to add that, although I have evinced my good will for the Middlesex Hospital by subscribing to it for many years, and inserting in my will a handsome legacy to it, yet as I cannot afford both to contribute to that, and at

the same time to pay for mesmerising the poor, I must make a choice between the two, and, if the present system is persevered in at the Hospital, I shall feel it my duty to give a preference to that which I am convinced is calculated to confer the greatest benefits on the unfortunate objects who stand most in need of assistance. I shall therefore wait with some degree of anxiety to know the determination of the committee upon this point; and when it is formed I shall be obliged by your acquainting me with it.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOSEPH BRIGGS.

The following particulars of the reception of this letter have been given us on what we regard as unexceptionable authority. But we shall be happy to publish any counterstatement on equally good authority.

"Mr. Briggs having understood that his letter was to be taken into consideration on the 5th inst., went directly to Compton Place, got Mrs. Ryan put into a cab, and conveyed to the hospital, so as to be ready to undergo any examination that might be thought proper. After some other business had been dispatched, his letter was produced and begun to be read by the Secretary; but, as the latter appeared to have some difficulty in reading the hand-writing, Mr. Briggs proposed to finish it himself. This was allowed, although not without evident signs of dissatisfaction from some of the Governors, one of whom, a Mr. Brewster, expressed his hope that he was not going to begin again. Indeed the sneers, interruptions, and discourtesy exhibited, were such as to induce Dr. Ashburner to appeal to the Chairman whether in any society of *gentlemen*, a letter addressed in the pure spirit of benevolence, on a subject connected with the interests of humanity, would not be heard to the end without indecent interruptions. This appeal having had some beneficial effect, and the reading being finished, a conversation took place as to what should be done with it, when it was moved that the matter should be referred to the Medical Committee of the establishment. This was objected to by Mr. Brewster as giving too great a sanction to mesmerism, and by Dr. Meriman, because mesmerism is no new thing, and because on some former occasion a man had pretended to cure cancer by the application of the inside of a dead puppy to the part; and, lastly, by the Rev. Mr. Scobell, on the ground that much has been written for and against mesmerism, and that *while it is struggling into existence, it ought not to be countenanced by*

the governors of that hospital. Mr. Briggs then made a few observations on the importance of the subject before them, and upon the inconsistency of refusing to admit mesmerism as contrary to ancient practice, while they allowed *galvanism*, which was declared by one of their officers to be nearly the same thing. He told them that Mrs. Ryan was in attendance, and ready to undergo any examination they might think fit. His reasonings, however, whether written or verbal, availed little. Two amendments upon the motion of reference were moved; one by Mr. Brewster, to the effect that it was not expedient to take any further notice of his letter; and a second by Mr. Scobell, that it be allowed to lie upon the table. Upon these amendments Mr. Briggs was beginning to make some observations, when he was stopped short by the Chairman, who said with a most peremptory tone and angry look, 'Sir, you have already spoken two or three times,' although he had in fact only spoken 'once,' and that for a very short time, (the rest being merely conversation,) while his opponents were not restricted from speaking as often as they pleased; and such indeed is probably the general practice in committees.

"The debate, if such it can be called, being thus forcibly brought to a conclusion, the resolution and *second* amendment were put to the vote; and, there being only seven hands held up for the former, while ten were for the latter, the amendment was declared to be carried: and so the appeal, from which Mr. Briggs had hoped for a better result, is to have the honour of lying *upon*, or, perhaps, *under*, the table of the institution, whose true interests it was intended to promote,—which is, we apprehend tantamount to its being consigned to utter oblivion, and that, too, without any one of the persons present thinking it worth while to see Mrs. Ryan, who was in the waiting room. It should seem therefore that there is not much probability of mesmerism being introduced into the Middlesex Hospital *at present*. Yet we do not despair of that being accomplished at no distant period, as we know some of its medical officers are zealous supporters of the inestimable discovery. Indeed, no one will admit that the recent resolution, founded on such bases and conducted in such a manner, can be regarded as a satisfactory and much less a *final* settlement of the question, and we do hope the discussion will be renewed on some other occasion under more favourable auspices. It was evident from the first that the *Chairman* looked upon the matter as unworthy of serious attention; for while Mr. Briggs's letter was in reading, he *was making mock passes upon his neighbour*, and when the

division took place, *he was the first to hold up his hand*;—a thing which seems to us quite contrary to reason and practice, as a person placed in such a situation, whatever may be his private opinions, ought at least to preserve the *appearance* of impartiality, and not to vote for either party except where the others are equally divided.

"Let Mr. Briggs, however, feel assured that this mighty influence, although for a time thwarted by ignorance, prejudice, or selfishness, will speedily overcome all opposition, and be hailed as one of the greatest blessings vouchsafed by a merciful Creator to poor suffering mortals."

On the dignified tricks of the chairman, Mr. R. Vaughan Richards, Q.C., during so grave, so holy a question as that of allowing the poor wretches in the hospital to have the inestimable blessings of mesmerism, we shall make no other remark than that they would have been still more delightful to behold if he had been decked out at the time with his gown and full-bottomed dress wig. If the Mr. Brewster, whoever he is, formerly suffered himself repeatedly to be told at the board that he was indulging in falsehoods when defending Mr. Tuson, what he did on this occasion was of no importance. The conduct of Dr. Merriman, whose enduring soubriquet at the hospital we will not mention, though it is beautifully appropriate, does not surprize us. It was in keeping with the wisdom evinced during his whole life. Being an accoucheur, and therefore occupied day and night in furthering the progress of little things "*struggling into existence*" and intended to grow into men and women, he could not for shame use Mr. Scobell's clever argument, and therefore tried another. "Mesmerism," he said, "is no new thing. I remember a proposal for the cure of cancer being made by a person who actually applied the warm inside of a recently killed puppy, and maggots were afterwards found which were supposed to come from the patient." According to this sage—or sage-femme, mesmerism is unworthy of regard at the Middlesex Hospital because dead puppies do not cure cancers.

But the sad part of this affair is the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Scobell, the man of God, who earns his bread by preaching the gospel of Christ,—of him that came preaching comfort to the poor and healing all manner of diseases. Mr. Scobell knows what mesmerism is: we saw him years ago in Dr. Elliotson's drawing room when the most indisputable phenomena were produced, and he knows that his curate and his curate's brother have both mesmerised much and effected good cures. But, waving all this, it was his duty to exhibit a little correspondence between his skilfully composed

Sunday appeals to the feelings of his congregation and his actual sympathies with the suffering. He knows that immense benefit to both medical and surgical patients—benefit far beyond what any other single means can afford—is declared on unquestionable and most abundant authority to result from mesmerism; and his duty was obvious and imperative. But mesmerism was *struggling into existence*, and so it deserved no notice! Had he lived therefore in the age of Tiberius, he would have turned his back on the founder of his religion, and if told to sell all he had and give it to the poor and “follow me,” his reply would have been, “Not I—your religion is *struggling into existence*: when it is well established and I can get a good living through it, let me know.” Mr. Scobell, You have not so learned Christ. You remind us of his parable of the good Samaritan, in which he represents the priest as caring not for the poor creature, but walking away on the other side.

MESMERISM IN CEYLON.

V. *Cure of Epilepsy.* By Dr. DAVEY.

THE following short account of the cure of a case of epilepsy in Ceylon, is contained in a letter received by Dr. Engledue from Dr. Davey, now resident in that island, and formerly of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum.

“A Cingalese boy, who had suffered for several years from epilepsy, came under my care in the hospital. He generally had four or five fits every twenty-four hours. I mesmerised him regularly for three months. In a very short time the number of fits diminished, and at the end of the second month he occasionally passed through the entire day without an attack. The disease gradually left him, and he has not had an attack for *two months*. I shall discharge him cured in a short time.”

MESMERISM IN RUSSIA.

VI. *Cure of Epilepsy.*

DEAR Dr. ELLIOTSON,—A friend of mine in Russia, holding a high official situation, has written me that mesmerism is making great progress in that country, and exciting the deepest interest in the most intelligent circles. He has also favoured me with the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, Dec. 29th,

old style (or Jan. 10th, new style), containing an article of which I subjoin you a translation, and which ought to put some of the anti-mesmeric doctors of England to the blush.

Yours truly,

SPENCER T. HALL.

Old Manor House, Wilford, Notts,
16th June, 1846.

(Translation).

TESTIMONY OF GRATITUDE.

The "*Russian Invalide*" publishes the following article:—

"Of a weak constitution generally, I suffered in 1844 insupportable pains in the head, which lasted more than nine months: this was followed by excruciating pains, violent palpitations of the heart, loss of sleep and appetite, occasional convulsions in the right leg, complete prostration of strength, spasms in all my limbs, and lastly attacks during which I lost all consciousness. These attacks became more frequent, five within twenty-four hours, and lasted whole hours. I entirely lost the use of my legs, and was obliged to be carried in a blanket. In consequence of the last fit I remained twenty-four hours unconscious and deprived of sensation, stretched under the sacred cloths (or veils) like one dead. Already had the undertaker been called to take the measure for my coffin.

"The doctors who had attended me from the commencement of the disease had tried all the remedies which science indicated. According to the indications which it (science) furnished, they had sought the cause of the disease, and formed their judgment of its nature, testing the exactness of their conclusions from the effect of the medicines; and repeatedly changed their mode of treatment. But all the resources of the apothecary's art, of cold baths, of bleeding, and remedies against tænia, were without success, and had no other result than the most violent sufferings caused by their use.

"Whether from the changes in the manner of treating it, or from the impotence of medicine in the case, my disease made rapid progress, and the grave appeared likely to be the sole termination to my sufferings. The doctors themselves, after having exhausted all the resources of their art, at length declared that I was afflicted with an incurable epilepsy, and that I should die during one of these attacks. In a word, the violence of the evil, and the experience of the doctors, condemned me to inevitable death. The next crisis was to carry me off. But the God of mercy

designed to send me a preserver in the person of his Excellency Major-General Andrew Pashkoff, whom my family had requested to come to see me.

"Influenced by humanity, he consented to visit 'the dying man,' as I was called, the day after a crisis of twenty-four hours; and without examining into the causes of the disease, or the prescriptions of the doctors, he showed me the holy image of our Lady of Tichvine," and the first application of animal magnetism caused the crises and convulsions to disappear, and they have not since reappeared. He gave his *séances* twice a week. After the fifth, the cause of the disease manifested itself in the form of hemorrhoids; my appetite and strength returned to such a degree that I could not only get up, but by the advice of the General I could go and breathe the country air. At the fifteenth *séance* all pain had entirely disappeared, as well as the symptoms of the crises, and I could with ease take walks of five or six versts (from three and a third to four miles). After the twelfth *séance* I had resumed the management of my affairs as entirely cured, blessing the name of my preserver, not before the image, in the presence of which he had taken me under his protection, but in the holy temple of the Lord, where I vowed to consecrate this day as long as I live, to pray for him and his children. Here below there is no other reward for him who has restored me to life, and from the feelings which actuate him he can have no other. His reward is not of this world, and my tongue cannot find expression for the feelings with which my soul is filled.

(Signed) "ALEXIS ZEDOTOFF VARLAMIEFF,
"Merchant of St. Petersburg."

VII. Local Mesmerisation of Cerebral Organs.

By Mr. H. S. THOMPSON.

My dear Elliotson,—I cannot recollect without my notebook, which I have not with me, the particulars of all the cases that I have met with where the cerebral organs have been excited by touch without the patient being mesmerised, but such as I do I send you.

The two cases which I think are the most striking were the following. I was staying at a friend's house, when one evening phrenology was the topic of discussion, and the lady of the house asked me to point out, if I could, the particular

* A general concomitant, I believe, of most kinds of curative treatment among members of the Greek Church.—Translator.

traits of character which her children possessed. Amongst them was a girl about fourteen or fifteen years of age. I had scarcely laid my hand on the organ of Self-esteem, when she drew herself up haughtily and said that she disliked my hand upon her head. I removed my hand from that organ and shortly replaced it, when she made the same remark. At first I thought I had not got the most amiable of individuals under my hands, but it immediately struck me that the organs had been excited by contact. I removed my finger and placed it on Benevolence, and after keeping it there a short time, she looked up and smiled and said, "I like that—that is pleasant." I then placed it on Wit, and she began to laugh and seem in a very merry humour. I tried no further, as I knew the family were rather averse to mesmerism, and I thought that she would soon be in a mesmeric state from the extraordinary effect produced involuntarily upon her, and which was a proof of her extreme susceptibility.

The second case was a gentleman, in whom I excited the organs of Wit, Imitation, Tune, Self-esteem, Benevolence, when he was not in a mesmeric state, and who had just declared his disbelief of the power to excite the cerebral organs by contact in a mesmeric state. He admitted that he felt no inclination to resist the strange impulse that he immediately had to develop those different feelings which we think peculiar to the several organs touched.

I have met with some other cases accidentally, but they were not so clear or satisfactory as those I have related, nor can I recollect them sufficiently well to describe them without referring to my note-book.

Yours ever,

H. S. THOMPSON.

I have only just time to write you thus to catch the post.
Fairfield House, near York.

June, 1846.

VIII. *Cure of severe Pain with local Mesmerism: and the production of singular Phenomena, by Mr. H. S. THOMPSON, in a Letter to Dr. Elliotson.*

The patient in this case was a young lady twenty years of age; she had never suffered from any serious illness, and appears to have a remarkably healthy and strong constitution. At the age of sixteen (four years before she became my patient), after taking quick exercise, she felt a pain between

the fourth and fifth toes of the right foot ; it was supposed to be merely the result of a sprain, and little attention was paid to it at the time. The pain, however, increased, and at last was accompanied by severe spasms shooting from the foot to the hip, and sometimes accompanied by an aching pain in the back under the shoulder. She could not bear any exertion, nor hang her leg down for any length of time. The pain was so acute occasionally that it caused fainting fits. She continued in this way for two years, trying all the usual remedies, and derived some benefit, when on the continent, from the treatment of a medical man whom she consulted, towards the end of the second year, and the pain gradually subsided ; so that, though she could not declare herself perfectly well, and was subject to a good deal of inconvenience from any exertion, she nevertheless was enabled to enjoy herself tolerably well the two following years. In the spring of 1843 she went abroad with her family, and without any apparent cause, nor after any great exertion, the pain returned more violently than ever ; she now could not put her foot to the ground at any time without pain, and severe spasms shooting to the hip, and from thence to the head, were continually occurring, and would sometimes cause her to faint two or three times in a day. After a fainting fit, she invariably felt a cessation from the violence of the pain. All the remedies before resorted to which had appeared to afford any relief were again tried, and every other means that the different medical men she consulted could suggest ; but no mitigation, and often an increase of pain, was the consequence, and in one instance she suffered so severely from the prescriptions of a most eminent surgeon in London, that her life was in considerable danger, nor did she recover for some time from the effects of the intended remedy. She was suffering in this severe manner on her return home, which was in July of the year 1843. Her father asked me if I thought mesmerism could at all relieve her. I proposed a trial. She was suffering at the time acutely from spasm. There were seven or eight persons in the room, and amongst them a gentleman (a cousin) who was sceptical as to mesmerism. I made passes over the foot and down the leg for about ten minutes, when she declared that she neither felt pain nor ache. The foot seemed attracted by my hand, and the gentleman whom I have mentioned wished to try whether he could produce a similar effect. He tried and succeeded : but in a few minutes the most violent convulsive action took place in the limbs, nor could I by any effort allay it for a considerable time, nor before all the parties who were standing round her had re-

moved to some distance. The pain, however, did not return for some hours, and then not so violently as before. It was at this time that I consulted you; for from the extreme violence of the muscular twitchings and convulsive movements, I feared lest there might be some risk in persevering with mesmerism, and dared not undertake the case on my own responsibility. Your answer was encouraging. Her family were so alarmed at the unpleasant result of our first mesmeric experiment, that nothing but a recurrence of the violent pain would have induced either the patient herself, or her family, to have anything more to do with mesmerism.

The day I received your letter advising mesmerism to be continued, I saw her again; she was unable to move and obliged to lie on a sofa. I made a few passes over the foot and down the leg, when, as in the first instance, the pain was removed, and in a quarter of an hour she took my arm and walked about perfectly free from pain. No unpleasant twitchings occurred this day. From that day to last autumn, *i.e.* from July, 1843, I continued to mesmerise this patient on an average two or three times a week with some intermissions. Three or four times I had hoped that the cure was complete, and had ceased to mesmerise her, but was obliged to have recourse to it again. The last time of its recurrence, an interval of nearly three months had passed with absence from pain.

I have rarely been able to put this patient to sleep, for whenever the mesmeric passes have been continued for any length of time, almost invariably convulsive twitchings and starting would come on, which have prevented sleep and obliged me to discontinue the operation; so that my constant endeavor has been to relieve the pain, and render the patient as little sensitive to mesmerism as possible. I found that when I had continued the passes long enough to overcome the convulsive action and induce sleep, the patient became so highly sensitive that the approach of almost every one produced unpleasant sensations in her; and even some hours afterwards, if she sat near any persons, or was touched by them, or by any animal, very unpleasant involuntary convulsive twitchings were the result. Again, I have occasionally found if she had been walking arm in arm with any person previously to my mesmerising her, that as soon as I commenced, the same convulsive action would occur; and also that she has been differently affected by my mesmerising different persons previously to mesmerising her. At one time when the pain was obstinate, and I was in the constant and daily practice of mesmerising her, I had also two gentlemen patients, both

suffering from asthma; they each took me from a quarter of an hour to twenty minutes to mesmerise, and I invariably found that if I mesmerised her immediately after one gentleman, she was quiet and composed, and seemed very comfortable; but if after the other, she always expressed herself as feeling cold and uncomfortable, and the involuntary action was produced. I have tried this experiment repeatedly with the same result, and there has been a similar though generally a less effect produced, when even some hours had elapsed from my mesmerising either of these gentlemen. I was not at all aware of any different or peculiar sensation from either of them myself.

On some occasions some very curious phenomena have been produced. I usually found when these convulsive twitchings came on, that the readiest way to allay them was to quietly hold the hands for a few minutes, and this almost always succeeded; but sometimes the hands and arms have been seized with involuntary but slow automatic action, sometimes performing all sorts of convolutions, twisting and turning about, and advancing and receding, and the hand then insinuating itself between books, under the table-cloth, or any thing that happened to be near, and exactly simulating the motions and actions of some snake or reptile. I have put a handkerchief over the head of the patient so that she could not see her hand, but it has receded at the approach of mine, advanced as I drew my hand back, inserted itself between the books, &c., as though it possessed eyes itself, or some peculiar power of knowing where it was going: sometimes it seemed to be attracted by some object at a distance, or to have a desire, if I may so express it, of advancing forward. I have requested the patient to follow the directions of the hand, but have rarely been able to guess what was the attractive or stimulating power of these extraordinary fantastic movements.

The foot that was subject to the neuralgic affection, I have once or twice observed similarly affected. I will relate one instance, in which the result was as satisfactory as extraordinary. The patient, one morning when I had an engagement and could not remain with her, complained of a little pain; I made some rapid passes over the foot, until she said the pain was removed: and I left her. On my return I still found that she was not entirely free from pain, and commenced mesmerising her again. Convulsive motions immediately came on in the foot, and I gave over mesmerising: but in a few minutes the foot began to advance forward, and, though the patient had the power to control its action by

holding it firmly on the ground, she said that she had a sensation as if something was attached to her foot, that drew it forward; and when she held the foot suspended above the ground, it was immediately advanced involuntarily forward.

Anxious to discover some reason, if possible, for this, I requested her to follow the foot in any direction it might seem to be attracted. She did so, when she was led to the window. The room was on the ground-floor, and the windows down to the ground, opening into the garden. There was an iron plate close to the window, which I thought possibly might have been the attractive power. I requested the patient to go into the garden; she still felt the sensation as if something was pulling at her foot. I found however that the iron plate was not the object of attraction; the foot rested for a moment or two on the window-sill, and the patient said it felt quiet and comfortable; but soon again the same sensation was experienced, and the foot was again drawn by some invisible agent round the house, resting for a moment on the sill of some of the windows, as she arrived at them in succession. Having made the circuit of the house, the foot seemed attracted through a thick clump of shrubs that bounds and adjoins the north end of the house, and screens the yard and offices from the gardens. It struck me immediately that a little dog that was generally in the house must have something to do with these phenomena. I made no remark of the sort to the patient, but proposed to return to the house, as it was impossible that we could persist in the pursuit of our invisible game through the wet bushes. As soon as we had re-entered the house, I went in search of the dog, and on finding it brought it into the house, and let it find its way into the drawing-room as if by accident. In a very short time a slight convulsive twitching took place in the foot, and a still stronger sense as if something was drawing it. She advanced towards the dog, and put her foot on its back as it was lying before the fire, and the twitching and sensation was at an end. She immediately exclaimed, "My foot has at length found its resting-place." On enquiry, I found that in the morning, directly after mesmerising her, she had placed her foot on the dog as it was lying on the rug before the fire, and had kept it there nearly half an hour; but the circumstance had never struck her, until she again found her foot on the dog's back, and all the sensations she had experienced at an end. The dog, when shut out of the house, was constantly in the habit of trying the different windows, and, if unsuccessful in its endeavours to get into the house, would make its way through the bushes into the back

yard. I have little doubt that this had been the case that day.

Another interval of several months has elapsed, and the patient has experienced no pain. I do hope that we shall be able to pronounce the cure perfect.

I have met with several cases where this convulsive and involuntary action has been brought on by a second person touching a limb of a person who had been mesmerised for some time.

A few days ago, a friend of mine, who has the misfortune to be quite deaf and nearly dumb, came with his sister to consult me about his eyes: he is an artist, and from close application to his pursuits, a nervous affection had come on in his eyes, which his medical adviser feared might terminate in amaurosis. I mesmerised him, and anxious to ascertain how he felt, I requested his sister to try whether she could make him understand by talking to him on his own fingers. The experiment was very curious and successful; but a short time afterwards involuntary action came on in his hands and arms, and continued when he was quite awake, nor did it cease until I made passes down them for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes."

Sept. 3rd, 1845. I met with a most interesting case. A poor woman of the name of Bell, who resides in Stillington, was attacked with mania. She had had a previous attack about a year since, and had been confined in the York Lunatic Asylum for eighteen weeks, and afterwards remained in a low desponding state for a length of time. She gradually got better, and had been engaged in harvesting with her husband. Whilst at work, she was suddenly attacked with a kind of fit, and relapsed into a state of mania. When I first saw her, she had been in a most violent state for about forty-eight hours, yelling and screaming at times most frightfully, and endeavouring to strike or bite any one who came near

w I think it as well to mention, that before I commenced regularly mesmerising this patient, her father, having heard of Mr. Braid's hypnotism, procured his book on the subject, and, being convinced that it was a readier method of getting rid of the pain if it answered as well, took in hand set to work with his daughter. The first time or two it produced no sleep or hypnotism, but only a most disagreeable and strained feeling in the eyes, which lasted many hours after the operation, and at length brought on a most unpleasant and serious affection, the eyes being convulsively and involuntarily turned upwards; and this occurred for several days after this dangerous practice was discontinued, whenever the patient looked upwards, or fixed her eyes for a short time on any object. No relief whatever from the pain was experienced during this process.

her. She was strapped into an arm-chair, and her hands and feet tied. I determined to try what effect mesmerism would have on her. I advanced towards her, keeping my eye steadily fixed upon her's. This seemed to make her rather more tranquil. I then made a few passes over her head and down her limbs; at first she slightly tried to resist, but in a few minutes she became quiet and calm, and completely under my control. I untied her hands, and loosened the bands she was fastened with, and then recommenced mesmerising her. In ten minutes she was asleep, and in her sleep she thanked me for the relief she felt in her head. I let her sleep about an hour, when she awoke. She was quiet and composed; the excitement seemed over, but her mind was weak and wandering, and she appeared exhausted. She had one paroxysm that night, which lasted about an hour.

I mesmerised her the following day; there was still a wildness in her look, and she had an excitable and rambling manner of talking, but she did not break out into any acts of violence. She improved steadily, and on the fourth day appeared quite as well as, if not better than, before her attack. She had not suffered from lowness of spirits or despondency, which was the case after her first seizure. She has had no relapse since, and has been able to attend to her family and to work.

Mesmerism had a most curious and instantaneous effect on this poor creature; for she was not only instantly calmed, but in a few minutes was *incapable* of being violent, had she tried to be so; for her limbs were partially stiffened; she could only move them with the slowest and most regular action. The muscles of her throat, neck, and mouth then gradually became stiffened, so that she could not speak; then her eyes closed, and she slept quietly for about an hour; when she awoke, she slowly and by degrees was enabled to speak and use her limbs. Insanity in this case is, I am sorry to say, hereditary. Her father, I understand, became insane, and a brother and sister also have suffered from this fearful malady.

She describes the sensation of mesmerism as being very agreeable, relieving her head from the pain, which was very violent, almost immediately, and before going to sleep; and then a sort of listlessness and inability to move her limbs gradually coming on, which she said was by no means an unpleasant feeling.

IX. *Cure of Epilepsy with Mesmerism.* By Mr. FLINTOFF, Surgeon.

FEB. 20th, 1844. I was called to Emma Button, aged 21, residing at No. 47, Great Titchfield Street. I found her labouring under considerable exhaustion, having had two fits, each of half an hour's duration, in the morning. The tongue foul, pulse 90 and soft, dimness of sight, severe head-ache, and great pain in the loins and thighs; it was the period for the catamenia, which had not yet appeared. She had been subject to violent epileptic fits ever since the age of 16, supposed to have been at first produced by a fright: latterly the attacks had increased in frequency and severity, and for the last 10 months she had several every month, but more severe and frequent immediately before and during the catamenia, which had always been more or less deficient et quantitatem et colorem, ever since their commencement, at the early age of 11. She had been a patient at the Marylebone Dispensary for years; been repeatedly cupped, leeches, and blistered, and had taken an immense quantity of medicine prescribed by a number of eminent medical men, without the slightest benefit.

I ordered her calomel and hyoscyamus at bed-time, and a saline aperient draught in the morning, hot fomentations to the abdomen, hip bath, and embrocation to the loins.

Feb. 21st. Saline mixture. Liq. Opii. sed. Had one fit which lasted 25 minutes: in the evening the catamenia appeared.

22nd. One fit, mixture continued.

23rd. Tongue and pulse better, still head-ache and sight dim; aperient pills with hyos. at bed time.

24th. One fit, tongue clean, bowels open.

27th. Two fits, tongue clean, bowels confined, two pills.

28th. Mesmerised for the first time for half an hour, by the advice of Dr. Elliotson, who saw the patient, and urged its continuance.

It was accordingly continued by me daily, without the mesmeric sleep being produced, until the 15th March, when she passed into the mesmeric coma after being mesmerised about twenty minutes. On the 3rd she had a severe fit immediately after being mesmerised.

15th March. She remained in the sleep for three hours, and awoke greatly refreshed, and her head relieved.

16th. Mesmerised, asleep in 10 minutes.

17th. Had a fit before my visit. Mesmerised, asleep in two minutes, and continued so four hours.

18th. Mesmerised, asleep in one minute, awoke in an hour with a violent head-ache, and on my placing my hands on the front and back part of the head she went off into a fit, which immediately subsided on her being again mesmerised.

22nd. General health and appetite greatly improved.

Mesmerism still continued every day.

April 1st. *In the mesmeric sleep said that she should have a dreadful fit at 10 in the morning of the 19th, which would be the last she should ever have, and that she should be very ill for a week before.*

12th. Catamenia appeared, (it being a week before the proper time, this never having occurred before, they being generally rather over the proper time,) without any pain, color naturalis, quantitas aucta.

15th. Sent for in the morning and found her in a fit, and which had existed for 10 minutes. I mesmerised her out of it in half a minute. Found on enquiry that she had just rinsed out some clothes in cold water, had been instantly attacked with violent pains in the uterus, and went off into a fit; another occurred in ten minutes, which immediately subsided on her being again mesmerised. Had another in the evening, which continued three-quarters of an hour. I was not present. Foretold the next would take place at 10 next morning.

16th. Had two fits to-day, the first at 10 a.m. *She has of late always talked, during the sleep, of Friday, the 19th being a dreadful day for her.* 17th. Four fits. 18th. Thirteen fits. 19th. *Friday, twenty-six fits, the last at ten o'clock at night, which she said would be the last she should ever have unless she should meet with a great fright. During this week she always mentioned in her sleep the different hours at which each fit would take place, which always occurred to the moment.* The holy rapture, and the grace and beauty of the attitudes which she assumed during the greater part of the last two days, in her mesmeric state, surpassed description.*

The patient had a very fine regular set of teeth, with the exception of the right eye tooth, which protruded so much as to disfigure the mouth and irritate the upper lip from pressure. Although it was *very firmly fixed*, I removed it *during the mesmeric sleep without her feeling the operation*, two of my own friends being present. Mesmerism in this case was continued for three months longer. *She has had no return of the fits since April 19th, 1844, and is now in the most perfect state of health.*

* See Dr. Elliotson's case of Miss E. Melhuish.—*Zoist*, vol. I., p. 449.

I have lately witnessed the beneficial effects of mesmerism in a case of tumor of the left breast, combined with paralysis of the inferior extremities. The patient, Mrs. Ryan, No. 5, Compton Place, Judd Street, was mesmerised by me from the 5th December last, for six weeks, after which time, as I was obliged to discontinue the case, it was taken up by Mr. Fradelle, of 19, Percy Street, with the most satisfactory results. Previously to mesmerism being employed, the tumor was about the size of a turkey's egg, and the inferior extremities were entirely devoid of sensation and motion; in four weeks its size had diminished nearly one-fourth, and the other unpleasant symptoms were greatly relieved. The tumor has now entirely disappeared, and sensation and motion have in a great measure been restored.⁷

THOMAS FLINTOFF.

73, Great Titchfield Street,
June 8th, 1846.

X. Cures of Epilepsy, Loss of Voice, and Deafness. By
MR. DAVEY.

The following accounts have been handed to us by Dr. Elliotson, from Mr. Harrison, junior, of Plymouth, who has seen the original certificates, and vouches for the accuracy of the copies.

Mr. Davey, who effected these cures, mesmerised Mrs. Northway whose arm was amputated at Torquay, vol. iii. p. 207, without her feeling, and restored the voice of Catherine Browne, vol. ii. p. 244.—*Zeist*.

I. Cure of Epilepsy with Mesmerism.

"Holoferd Hartland, Feb. 18th, 1845.

"Sir,—I received your note and am happy to hear that you are doing good. My daughter's health is rather better than it was when you left, she had one fit after she was mesmerised and she has not had one since.

"Yours very truly,

"MARY TURNER."

This case was one of epileptic fits, Mr. Davey thinks, of 11 years standing, but is not quite sure of it. The above letter was in answer to an enquiry of Mr. D.'s made 15 months after the cure had been effected. The fit alluded to took place a few days after the first application of mesmerism, previously to which her health and intellectual faculties had been much impaired by her very severe attacks of epilepsy. She had only *one* fit after the first application of mesmerism, which was continued at intervals during the space of about

⁷ The case is described in p. 218.—*Zeist*.

two months. A deep state of coma was not in this case induced. Her health was partially restored, and her intellectual faculties which were above the average, became as strong as they were previous to her attacks.

II. Cures of Loss of Voice with Mesmerism.

We, the undersigned inhabitants of Sheldon, Devon, do feel ourselves in duty bound to acknowledge the efficacy of Mesmerism, as shewn in the case of Margaret Luscombe of this place; she having, to our certain knowledge, been deprived of the power of speech for six months: *after every other means* had been resorted to, she obtained admittance to the Devon and Exeter Hospital, where, after five weeks ineffectual treatment, her health declined so rapidly that she despaired of her life, and requested leave to end her days at home; accordingly she left on the 10th instant, and on the 17th instant, her speech was perfectly restored by Mesmerism, through Mr. Davey, at his first lecture at the Subscription Rooms, Exeter. We would add that her health is also fully re-established.

"Margaret Luscombe.

"Susan Luscombe.

"William B. Boyd.

"Shaldon, July 29th, 1845.

"This certifies that I have known and attended the within named Margaret Luscombe, and that she had lost her voice for some time.

"N. A. Bartlett, Surgeon.

"George Hannaford.

"Robert Cade.

"Adam Bulley.

"Elizabeth G. Harris.

"Shaldon, January 29th, 1845."

Margaret Luscombe, the girl alluded to, being about the age of 21, was, in consequence of a fright and of ill health immediately succeeding, deprived of the use of her voice. In addition to this she had frequent fainting fits after the fright. She was *first* mesmerised, and passed into a state of perfect coma, at Mr. Davey's lodgings during his stay in Exeter. *On this occasion*, attraction, rigidity, sympathy of sensation were produced and she responded accurately to the excitement of the *cerebral organs* with contact. Mr. Davey, from this fact, concluded that the restoration of the voice could at any time be effected, and therefore preferred accomplishing this in public.

This patient and Miss Bulley (referred to in another testimonial) accompanied Mr. D. to the Royal Subscription Rooms, Exeter, where in the presence of several hundred witnesses, their voices were almost simultaneously restored. Margaret Luscombe's fainting fits left her from the first mesmerisation : but the treatment was continued for a fortnight after the recovery of her voice for the complete re-establishment of her health. Instead of going home to end her days, she took a situation in a Lady's family, and has continued well up to the present time. Mr. D. heard from her only a few days ago. June 3rd., 1846.

III.

" August 3rd, 1844.

" Mary Nicholls, living at Woolfardisworthy belonging to the parish of Hartland has been under my care for the last four or five years, the last two she has been incapable of speaking otherwise than in a very low whisper, it came on after the third attack of Trismus (Locked Jaw) unknown to me, a month since. She was taken (during her stay at Bideford) by Mr. James Barrow, relieving officer of the Bideford Union, to Mr. Davey, who was then lecturing on Phreno-Magnetism, and who by its influence in four days restored her speech. Having examined the case and seen the said Mary Nicholls magnetised in my own house, I hereby declare my conviction that there has been neither collusion nor deception on either side, but a full confirmation of the truth of Phreno-Magnetism. As there may be some individuals whose *small souls* will induce them to traduce the magnetiser and magnetised, I protest against such foul calumniators, and subscribe myself,

" J. H. BELL, Surgeon."

" Mary Nicholls, living in the village of Woolfardisworthy, near Bideford, had lost the full power of her speech, and was able only to speak in a very low whisper after a period of nearly two years. Upon being subjected to the power of Animal Magnetism at the hands of William Davey, Esq., Lecturer, her voice has been restored.

" J. W. SMYTH, D.D.

" Incumbent of Woolfardisworthy.

" August 5th, 1844."

Mr. Davey saw Mr. Bell 16 months after the date of these documents, who then stated that Mary Nicholls had suffered two relapses, but that by the use of mesmerism he had succeeded in restoring her voice as Mr. Davey had done on a

former occasion. Mr. Bell having left that part of the country, should a relapse again take place, there is no good Samaritan near. Proh pudor!

IV.

"Shaldon, Parish of Saint Nicholas,
"July 24th, 1845.

"This is to certify that Amey Bulley, of Shaldon, in the Parish of St. Nicholas, after having suffered from the loss of her voice for several months regained it by means of mesmerism. Mr. Davey having operated upon her at Shaldon and also at Exeter with great success.

"N. A. Bartlett, Surgeon,

"Amey Bulley,

"Adam Bulley, father of Amey Bulley,

"W. B. Boyd,

"George Hannaford,

"Robert Cade,

"Elizabeth G. Harris."

This young person, then about the age of 20, had alternately lost and regained her voice, during the month of *March* especially, for several years; Mr. D., however, *thinks* that she was in possession of her voice during the remainder of the year. Her voice was usually restored after medical aid had been called in; but in the present instance she had lost it for six months, and her surgeon, Mr. Bartlett, was not as successful as usual in restoring it. Recourse was had to the assistance of Mr. Davey, who mesmerised her every day for about a fortnight, before the expiration of which her voice returned. The proper organs of the brain for the restoration of her voice were excited, to which Mr. D. attributed his general success. Mesmerisation was continued for another week for the improvement of her health, which had been delicate. Mr. D. received a communication from her only a few days ago, June 3rd, 1846, stating that she is now in perfect health, and in full possession of her voice; so that the month of *March* has passed over without a relapse. Mr. Bartlett, her medical adviser, has thus honourably acknowledged the efficacy of mesmerism after the failure of other measures.

V.

"London Hotel, Sidmouth,
"April 5th, 1845.

"Dear Sir,—In answer to your kind enquiries, I beg to

state that I have been confined to my room for ten days with the most severe cold I ever remember to have had : but under all these disadvantages I have the greatest pleasure in informing you that by your never-to-be-forgotten instrumentality, mesmeric influence restored my voice after a total loss for seven years, and this still remains strong to the great gratification of myself and friends ; indeed the duty I owe you demands my sincere thanks. Trusting that many of my fellow-creatures who may labour under the same loss may have cause to rejoice at the power of mesmerism, I shall at all times be most happy to hear of your success in a science which must tend to the general good of our fellow-creatures. The whole of our family unite in kind regards to Mrs. Davey and self, and believe me, dear sir,

“ Yours truly,

“ ARABELLA CAWSEY.”

Mr. Davey has not heard from this person for some months, but requested her, should there be a relapse, to inform him of it—as the same means would probably again restore her voice.—She was mesmerised first about January 20th, 1845, during seven successive days. The influence increased by degrees, and on the 7th day consciousness was lost, and her voice was on that day restored. She was always able to speak *by a great effort in a very low whisper*, but after mesmerisation her voice was clear and distinct. *Some said that faith made her whole ; others satanic agency*, especially the sect known by the name of the “ Plymouth brethren,” who have used all their efforts to prejudice their dupes against it. Mr. Davey prefers not speaking of the conduct of some of the members of the medical profession as it has been too shabby.

VI. *Cure of Deafness by Mesmerism.*

Copy of a letter from Mr. Jones, Surgeon, of Ilfracombe, to a gentleman of Exeter :—

“ Ilfracombe, Aug. 2nd, 1845.

“ Dear Sir,—I am sorry that I could not reply to yours by an earlier post. The boy Cooke has been known to me from his birth, from which time to that of his being brought under mesmeric influence by Mr. Davey he was perfectly dumb and deaf, save that sounds attended with very great vibrations, such as a blow on an anvil, or on a table with a heavy substance, were slightly audible. I am fully confident he was totally incapable of hearing the human voice, ringing of bells, or any such sounds, and in this statement I am

borne out by those with whom he has had daily intercourse, save during the time he was in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Exeter, where neither of his infirmities were in the least degree benefited. He returned from the institution, where he was maintained at the cost of the parish, in precisely the same state in which he went. I am happy to say that he now hears minute sounds and speaks in a manner perfectly intelligible to any one, and should he be present at Mr. Davey's next lecture,* he will have no difficulty in declaring to the sceptics of your city, that 'poor and ignorant as I am yet have I attained to the invaluable knowledge that whereas I was deaf and dumb now I hear and speak.' His physical health was always good, but not a shadow of improvement in the dormant faculties had ever taken place till brought under the influence of mesmerism. You are fully at liberty to make what use you please of this communication, my only object being the maintenance of truth.

"I remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,
"To R. W. Fox, Esq." "JOHN JONES."

"Ilfracombe, Feb. 15th, 1845.

"Having had our attention called to a paragraph which appeared in the *Western Times* of February 8th, reflecting on the veracity of Mr. Davey, in reference to the cure by mesmerism, performed on our son George Cooke, we hereby voluntarily declare for the information of all those who may feel interested in the matter, that our said son George Cooke was born deaf and dumb and remained in that state till placed under the care of Mr. Davey, with this exception that he could always hear very loud sounds; but such is the improvement in his case that he can now distinctly hear the human voice when spoken to even from a distance, and his faculty of speech is such as enables us to carry on a conversation with him without the least difficulty. We beg to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Davey for his very great attention and kindness to him, and our gratitude to God for the great blessing thus conferred on one of his afflicted creatures.

"Robert Cooke, father of the said George Cooke,

"x The mark of Ann Cooke, mother of the said
George Cooke,

"George Cooke, the late deaf and dumb boy.

"Witness to the signature of Robert Cook and the mark of Ann Cook,

"James Greenwood, Chemist, Ilfracombe."

* He was present.

* Mr. Fox is a Surgeon Dentist, 7, Southerney Place, Exeter.—*Zoist*.

George Cooke was first mesmerised 11th May, 1844, being then 21 years of age. He was taken to Mr. Davey in consequence of the restoration of the voice of Catherine Brown of Ilfracombe, which had just then been effected, the particulars of which cure are recorded in *The Zoist*, Vol. ii. p. 244. The coma was induced by gazing and passes after the expiration of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour; at the first trial, Language and Imitation being excited, the operator thought that on shouting into his ear, the patient would imitate the voice; but no such manifestation took place. This was repeated up to the fourth day, when the faculty of hearing was so far brought into action, that he was enabled to catch articulate sounds; during this fourth sleep he learnt *half* the alphabet, the cerebral organs being excited. After returning to the normal state, he was enabled, by watching the mechanical motion of the lips, to repeat the portion of the alphabet learnt in his mesmeric state, but not the remainder. Mr. Davey, thus finding it possible to restore the deaf and dumb, has taken this young man on his own responsibility (his parents being poor). He continues with him, and is brought forward at his lectures, as a proof of the efficacy of mesmerism in such cases. His improvement is such that he can now hear a whisper, and hold a conversation on *very ordinary* topics sufficiently well to be understood. His knowledge of words is not very extensive, for, like a child, he is learning words daily. Any persons here who have seen him would be willing to state that he can hear distinctly. Mr. Fry and Mr. Jonathan Hearder, Buckwell Street, Plymouth, would, I should think, be ready to give their testimony, as also Mr. Markes the postmaster, Mr. Karkeet, my father, and many others. He pronounces some words and letters far less distinctly than others. His improvement has been gradual and proportionate to the means employed. He was for some time mesmerised every day, subsequently every other day; he is not now mesmerised much oftener than once a week, excepting at Mr. D.'s lectures. On one occasion, he returned home and worked seven months at his trade of a blacksmith, and suffered no relapse. A correspondent in the *North Devon Advertiser* stated that this is a fact which all the waters of the Bristol Channel will not wash away.

XI. *Cure of a diseased Lung with Mesmerism.*

By MR. PARSONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Brighton, June 12th, 1846.

Royal Marine Library.

Sir,—I have great pleasure in forwarding to you the following statement for insertion in the forthcoming number of *The Zoist*.

My son, a child (six years of age on Monday next), was troubled with a hard, dry, irritating cough during the month of September, last year, which distressed him extremely. He was then at a Preparatory School in Brighton, where I reside. As the cough resisted the usual discipline observed in such cases, I had him home for two or three weeks, at the end of which period the cough yielded to the remedies prescribed by my medical adviser, Dr. Plummer, but it was very obstinate. When I judged him well enough, I sent him back to school, where he continued till he was attacked with scarlatina (about the middle of November). The disease was of a very mild and favourable character apparently, but, when it subsided, the cough returned with renewed violence. His arm also, which had for some time been in a deranged condition, (indeed I believe it to have been the "*fons et origo mali*") now became quite inactive, and his health declined so rapidly that I was alarmed, and brought him away from school entirely, that he might have all the unremitting care and soothing attentions which only a mother is equal to. We now discovered that he had profuse night sweats, and from some observations casually made by those who had the care of him when at school, it was evident that these perspirations had been now very apparent for some weeks. I called the attention of Dr. Plummer to this circumstance, and he examined the chest with a stethoscope, and the result of this examination was the discovery that the left lung was quite motionless. His health altogether was so shaken that Dr. P. having found that he never answered to the medicines administered in a satisfactory manner, advised me to remove him away into the country away from the sea air, as he had more hope in the alterative effect of such a change than in any physic, which only worried him without benefitting him. I took him to Hurst, (a village to the north of the Southdown Hill) where he remained a month; but the weather was so wretched, that there he was perpetually confined to the limited range of the bed-room and sitting-room, and he derived no benefit what-

ever. I then brought him to Brighton to be examined by Dr. Todd of King's College Hospital, who was down from town to visit a patient. Dr. Todd's opinion of the case was, that tubercles were formed in the lung and that there was no hope of recovery; and as no benefit could be expected from country air at that time of year which could compensate the inconvenience of being away from home, I did not send him back to Hurst. Dr. Plummer's view of the case was not quite so desponding as Dr. Todd's. He thought there was just a *shade* of hope; but after a week's use of the remedies prescribed, the alteration for the worse in the little patient made *him* abandon hope also, for he stated as follows: "None of the symptoms are abated; on the other hand, the lung is rather worse, the child has certainly lost flesh and is weaker; give him as much nourishment as you can get him to take." I considered this as the usual formula for preparing the minds of the parents to abandon hope of recovery; and as I had never liked the treatment, which was severe and harassing, I was not surprised at the result. I had reluctantly suffered him to be tormented with blistering fluid, mercurial frictions, calomel, castor oil, and injections during the week, because I had sought Dr. Todd's opinion, and it was unreasonable to refuse a trial to the discipline which he directed for my boy: but when hope was thus dismissed from medicine, I resolved to try mesmerism, which I had been practising with some success (non-professionally) for more than a year.

As, however, I did not feel courage to take the case into my own hands without consulting some one more experienced in mesmerism, I took the liberty of stating my boy's case fully to Dr. Elliotson, fearing that, by accelerating the pulse, I might hasten his end instead of healing him. Dr. Elliotson replied in the kindest manner, directing me by all means to mesmerise the patient, and if possible avoid all drugs. Thus strengthened, I went to work with confidence and hope.

I commenced the treatment on the 18th of January, and as he refused to submit himself when awake (for he resisted everything we did for his cure, he was so ill-tempered), I attempted to influence him while asleep, by making long passes from the head to the waist, and down to the feet, and I continued them during half an hour.

He usually awoke irritated and unrefreshed, at 7 o'clock in the morning. *This* morning, however, he was still asleep at ten o'clock, and his countenance wore such an unusual and death-like appearance that my wife became alarmed, fearing that the head was affected. I confess that I also shared this alarm, as we had already lost a fine boy of the

same age, whose last illness terminated in effusion on the brain, manifested by a lethargy very similar to that we were now watching. Presently the boy awoke unusually cheerful, and so improved in countenance and spirits that I greatly hoped the mesmerism had influenced him beneficially. I now resolved to mesmerise him regularly, but as I did not feel confident enough to abandon at once the medical treatment, I contented myself with discontinuing it without avowing it; and as the patient continued to mend as rapidly as I could expect, I was each day more confirmed in my confidence. The cough, however, still continued troublesome although abated; and, after having given no medicine for nine days, I was induced to obey Dr. Plummer's directions, one day when he called, and give him a dose of calomel.

The effect of the mesmerism up to this time had been to cause a great amendment; but that it may be more readily appreciated, I here describe his state when I commenced the treatment.

His left lung was quite useless and motionless. His liver was so inactive that his stool was like pipe-clay, and the region of the liver was much enlarged, shewing that organ to be gorged. There was considerable disturbance in the bowels, so that they were painful on pressure, and tense as a drum with included wind. He had a dry harassing hacking cough, which wore him out day and night. His night sweats were so profuse that his night clothing was wet through as if it had been dipped in water. And to all this were added an irritability of temper and depression of spirits, which made him miserable. The first effect of the mesmerism was to remove the last-named symptoms. He became cheerful and docile in comparison with what he was before. His liver began to act as shewn by his evacuation, which became darker and healthier in hue.

On the day referred to above, the effect of the dose of calomel was to produce a clay-coloured stool, and throw him back to what he was before. That night I mesmerised him carefully for an hour, and the next day his evacuations had again recovered their former appearance *before* the calomel. I was *now* convinced that the medical treatment was *worse* than useless, it was *mischievous*, and I dismissed the doctor, at his own suggestion, for he told me that "If I thought the benefit derived was *from mesmerism*, I ought to give it a fair chance, and do without medicine." I accepted the challenge, and have done without medicine, by the blessing of God on mesmerism, to this day.

I continued now to mesmerise twice daily. At first I was 20

or twenty-five minutes in producing sleep; but the time shortened every day, till from four to six minutes was sufficient to send him to sleep however playful or wakeful he might be. He disliked being mesmerised for some reason which I could never get from him; but I suspect it was merely because it interrupted his amusements. But I have caught him when he has run away from me, full of fun, seizing him by his clothes behind, as I would a kitten. I have laid him on the sofa in this frolicsome humor and he has been laid asleep soundly in five minutes.

I have sometimes talked to him and sung to him while I was mentally acting on him, and in spite of these opposing circumstances the sleep has seized him in nearly the usual time.

Under this treatment he gradually gained strength, and the general health was wonderfully improved, but I could not get rid of the cough. I wrote to Dr. Elliotson, reporting the favourable change, and asking his advice as to the cough; and he with the same kindness as before advised me to use this.

Prussic Acid, 2 minims,	} A tea spoonful every six hours.
Syrup of White Poppies, 2 drachms,	
Water, 14 drachms,	

This subdued the cough immediately; so that, at the end of a few days he had quite lost it, and it was no longer necessary to use the mixture.

I continued to mesmerise him daily till the 8th of April, giving him by this means from one and a half to two hours sleep every day.

I now considered him so far restored to health that he could afford to substitute change of air for the mesmerism, as I was anxious to remove him from Brighton as soon as it was practicable; and I again sent him to Hurst, where I could reach him by the railway if I found it advisable to renew the treatment.

The change of air caused him to make a rapid advance, and at the end of the month his restoration was complete.

The diseased lung now rises and acts, apparently, as well as the sound side. He takes strong and sustained exercise without fatigue; his bowels act in a healthy manner; the perspiration has ceased; he gains flesh every day; has a healthy colour on his cheeks, and in every respect appears in robust health. At first I mesmerised him with passes from the *beginning* of the *séance*, but as he said that it worried him to have my fingers moving over his face, (though I did not use contact,) I succeeded, after repeated failures, in mesmerising him by

the eyes alone, and holding his thumbs in my hands after which I *always* commenced in this way, making the passes on the surface after the sleep took place. I usually mesmerised him for half an hour, or till I felt that I could no longer command the requisite undivided attention, as I believe that it is useless to continue longer than this. When the effort becomes fatiguing to the mind of the operator, it is time to leave off,—he will no longer act beneficially. After I discontinued the passes, he usually slept an hour or an hour and a half.

His sleep did not differ in appearance from natural sleep, and any noise readily disturbed him from it; although when such a thing took place he would sometimes go to sleep again. He always awoke cheerful and greatly refreshed.

Hoping that this detail may induce other parents to undertake the cure of their children under like circumstances, which is my only motive for thus occupying your pages by so lengthened a report of perhaps a comparatively unimportant cure by mesmerism,

I beg to subscribe myself,
Very respectfully yours,
W. H. PARSONS.

XII. *Cure of Head-ache, by Mr. REYNOLDSON, 51, Renshaw Street, Liverpool.*

MISS A—P— had been subject to pain in her head for eighteen months. The first week in April, having mesmerised a good deal, I was myself suffering from pain in the situation of the right lobe of the lung, and requested her to make a few passes over the seat of pain. In a few minutes it was relieved, at the expense of considerable pain in the lady's right arm. I made a few (not more than six) passes down her arm, two or three over the left side of the body, and lo! she was in mesmeric sleep.

She continued in this state about five minutes, when I woke her up; the head-ache was entirely gone, and did not return for a month. Her general health is essentially improved. I have since mesmerised her twice for a violent cough, which was entirely cured in as short a period; and yesterday sleep resulted on a few transverse passes over the chest, for ailments brought on by over exertion in the intense heat.

Miss P.'s prejudices against mesmerism were very strong. We were all taken by surprise. I had no intention of inducing sleep in the two first instances; in fact, she would not have

consented. I have cured several cases of inveterate head-ache lately without sleep.

Mr. N——, aged about 24 years, has had continual head-ache for eight years, accompanied with costiveness, which induced him to take aperient medicine three or four times every week.

I could not induce sleep, and the pain was aggravated during each attempt, but moderated before we closed each sitting. He has taken no medicine for a month, and is regular in his habits without. He visited me but eight times, and continued daily to improve, after the mesmeric action was discontinued, up to this day.

I have had many cases, in which the same has happened, and I would direct attention to this particular point; especially since many individuals, who have been cured by mesmeric treatment, are themselves by no means aware how much benefit they have received from it, because their recovery was most decided after the mesmeric treatment had been discontinued.

The son of a gentleman, aged 19, well known at Preston, had suffered continual head-ache from childhood; he was studying for the University, but compelled to forego close application. After a friend had attempted to mesmerise him without any beneficial result, he came to me, and at the first pass experienced some relief; from four *séances* the pain has been much alleviated. And he intends re-visiting Liverpool for the benefit of this treatment.

XIII. On a Theory of Sleep. By Dr. ASHBURNER.

THE sensitive plant exhibits, under two different conditions, the opposite states of sleep and vigilance. Its contracted leaves are in a state of spasm,—a grasping, active, apparent quiescence; and when its leaves are open and expanded, it is awake. These two opposite states are quite analogous to the sleep and vigilance of man.

The phenomena of sleep have been so often noted, and so many definitions have been proposed as to its characteristics, that it would be difficult to find one which offered novelty. Yet the facts daily coming to light are so full of physiological interest, that to dive into the depths of what appears so very occult need not be despaired of. When I first learned to believe that in the practice of mesmerism was to

be found the cure for most of the intractable and hitherto incurable spasmodic diseases we are liable to, and when I found absolutely that by its aid more than epilepsy, hysteria, chorea, spasmodic asthma might be remedied,^b I devoted my ingenuity to the means of discovering an agent which might assist us in obtaining the deep sleep so essential for our objects. To produce sleep by the ordinary means was a process, in many cases so tedious, that often sufferers had no patience to go through the requisite course of manipulations. In one case I mesmerised a lady 238 times, averaging an hour each time, before I succeeded in the induction of sleep: afterwards her sister could put her into a mesmeric sleep in three or four minutes. I have had patients who were so difficult to render somnolent, that I have repeatedly failed in my object up to about 120 times, and then deep sleep has come on. Several have taken me at least 60 *séances* of an hour each. If the difficulties of putting to sleep be so great in some instances, people get it into their heads they are not susceptible of being affected, and give up the pursuit after a few trials. Convinced that mesmerism was the most important remedial agent ever yet made known to us, I braved the flood of disgraceful slander which the envy of many medical men had so often poured out upon me, and ceased not to study a subject I conscientiously believed would one day be acknowledged as a blessing to mankind. I could not help being struck with the analogies which this subject held towards magnetism. Evidently attraction and repulsion were the leading phenomena, and the conditions of sleep and vigilance are susceptible of being referred to these agencies for their existence; and it can be shewn that they are the powers which operate to produce the respective states. In reflecting upon the more extensive relations of this subject, I was led to conclude that it had a very close relation to the philosophy of the mind. The disagreeable, the unpleasant, and the unamiable feelings of our nature are found to be the results of a condition of the mind influenced by repulsive agencies.

Mr. Faraday may exert his vast ingenuity in discovering how far the diamagnetic powers are in operation in determining the presence of attractive and repulsive agencies on the human system, and his deeply interesting researches tend

^b It would not be too much to say that cancer and other malignant diseases have been wonderfully alleviated. Tubercular diseases, by which I mean consumption, scrofulous tumors, scrofulous caries of joints, have been arrested in their progress and brought nearer to a perfect cure than by any other treatment of which I know any thing. If medical men would study *The Zoiat* instead of studying their privileges, they might learn to advance the knowledge of their profession.

to the discovery of more than analogous states of electric action between the influences productive of motives to mental operation, and the powers which actuate the interminable combinations of matter. The Baron von Reichenbach has indicated with logical precision the great probability of the existence of a new imponderable agent. It may be permitted to point out the corroborations to his views in a paper I contributed to the last April number of *The Zoist*.^b But amidst the great advances which men of transcendent science are making on subjects admitting of more close and exact experiment and reasoning, it shall be lawful to vindicate with energy the truths that physiologists ought to respect, and that, for the sake of their honour and of humanity, physicians ought to investigate.

It is useless to ask why in this world the retarding principle acts upon men who pretend to scientific taste, as well as upon the ignorant and brutal. The desire to keep back one's neighbour—to feel delight in his misfortunes—to be envious of his renown, has been shewn by La Rochefoucault and other moralists to be of wider extent than the area bounded by the paltry feeling of a few in a profession; but the probabilities have not yet been pointed out that the antecedents to these consequents are dependent upon the presence of certain repulsive agencies operating upon mind and matter. It is proposed now to shew that man is constantly influenced by certain attractive and repulsive agencies, and if this be made out it must follow that these in some way promote the tone of his feelings, the temper of his mind, the activity or indolence of his manners, as well as the diurnal changes in his condition of being.

The illustrious Gall long ago indicated the true path to the examination of the phenomena of mind. The convincing nature of the facts corroborative of his philosophy afforded by mesmerism, has not failed to excite the repulsive agencies of certain organs of the brain in various individuals, and the result has been repetitions of illogical efforts to prove that fact is not fact,—that events overwhelming in their progress are impossibilities,—and that truth is satanic agency! The organs of the brain established by the phrenologists, may be divided into those which for the most part are excited to action by attractive agencies, and those which are influenced by repulsive powers. In what manner these operate to produce the multifarious combinations of mental phenomena, is not now the question. It is sufficient to indicate the law by which the great divisions of the mind are regulated, and to point out how sleep and vigilance are dependent upon it,

^b When I wrote that paper I had not seen the Baron von Reichenbach's book.

and how the opposite conditions of tonic and clonic spasm, the signs of some of the most serious diseases to which living beings are subject, are in fact but continuations of phenomena dependent upon attractive and repulsive forces.

There can be no doubt of the fact, that to the well-constituted minds of mankind the exhibition of the contempt flowing from Self-esteem, or of the defiance of Combativeness, or of the mean cunning of Acquisitiveness, or of the furious anger of Destructiveness, however amusing in some few exceptional relations, may always be said to be distasteful. All our unamiable dispositions, specially directed to any individuals, are repulsive to those persons; and, in like manner, the exercise of our amiable dispositions is attractive to our neighbours. This is so not only morally speaking; but it is a physical fact, susceptible of proof to those who diligently seek for true reasons. I think there is abundant proof of the mental operations of mankind being attended by the emanation of a fluid from the brain. To those who *cannot* bend their faculties to the belief of such a fact as this, promulgated in my paper of last April in *The Zoist*, it is useless to address the train of reasoning in the present essay; but the progress of knowledge will not wait for their belief.

The fluid from the brain of the individual labouring under the agency of repulsion is disagreeable to the individual affected by it, and, on the contrary, the amiable or attractive fluid is very agreeable. There is a physiognomy of action and of expression in the individuals actuated by attractive or by repulsive agencies, not to be mistaken. The expression of the attracted person is benignant, and the action tends to a forward progress; while the person under the influence of repulsive feelings has a tendency to retrogress, and the action is indicative of a desire to stand off. These two opposite conditions are in a state of extreme spasmodic disease, curiously reversed; and as if the polarities were exchanged when a transition took place from health to disease, the physiognomical expressions and actions are likewise affected. If a continued state of attraction be kept up in the brain, the phenomena of sleep supervene, and sleep, it must be understood, is not a condition of absence of all action. Dr. Elliotson long ago remarked that the mesmeric condition by no means implied the absence of action. In all sleep the eyelids close, and the muscles continue in action to close them. It was a remark of Sir Charles Bell's, that the eyeballs were *drawn* upwards into the orbit. Mesmeric sleep, which some ignorant persons have confounded with hysteria, but which in fact is the sleep the older writers have so

often described as that of somnambulism, is but a degree of intensity further prolonged beyond common sleep. Facts have brought me to the conclusion, that in every case common sleep may be artificially excited to become the deeper sleep of mesmerism; and if this be farther prolonged into a stage beyond the first of mesmeric sleep, insensible coma is the result; and if the process be pushed still further, a state of rigidity supervenes. If the causes directing the prolongation of such a condition into a still further stage continue to operate, the disease tetanus, characterized by the most intense form of tonic spasm, results. Now the tendency is no longer one of forward progression. Let Sir Charles Bell's *Anatomy of Expression* be consulted, and his beautiful graphic delineation of the disease will convince any one that the tendency of the spasm to produce a drawing backward, is decided in the case of tetanus. Whereas in the clonic spasm of hydrophobia, the body has a forward tendency: clonic spasms result from a repulsive agency in diseased action, the polarities probably having been reversed. It is not pretended that diseased states present no complication of phenomena, nor is every symptom to be strictly scrutinized as necessary to establish the tendency contended for, but the most philosophical mode of investigating such a subject is to regard it in its most primitive and simple aspect, and in this point of view it will be seen that all clonic spasms belong to the series of events of which wakefulness, vigilance, or activity form the commencing links. These are accompanied by a tendency to the backward start, and if they be prolonged into diseased action, become productive of slight restlessness, complete insomnia, jactitation, or hysteria, epilepsy, or some of those diseased actions which, occasionally complicated with sleep and tonic spasm, are for the most part attended by forward progress. That sleep and vigilance are dependent upon two different electric or magnetic conditions of the system, the attractive and the repulsive, is an hypothesis susceptible of powerful support by some striking facts. In the mesmeric manipulations, the passes producing sleep in most common use, are alternate repetitions of the downward passage of each hand slightly curved at the distance of half an inch from the crown of the head to the pit of the stomach. These have a soothing effect upon the patient, and gradually inducing a closing of the eyelids, bring on sleep. If the hand be passed even in contact with the skin of the patient, the effect is more comforting than the upward passing of the hands; an action sure to produce the state of vigilance instead of sleep. All the methods by which sleep is brought

on, have more or less a relation to the soothing of those mental organs which come under the division of attraction; and, on the contrary, as repulsion gives energy to the opposite organs, all that is productive of the higher states of vigilance, is likewise related to activity and energy of mind, whether it be in exercise of thought, in liberation to emotions, or to the indulgence of the angry and low passions of our nature. If the will be exerted by a mesmeriser, either in aid of manipulation or by itself, and if it be directed to the function of any repulsive organ, the effort to induce sleep will be in vain even with a person addicted to it. In operating with the will, the attraction is easily seen if it be properly directed. With susceptible patients, the leading characteristics of the attractive powers are very strikingly marked. But the most curious new facts, regarding the induction of sleep, relate to the presenting of certain crystals to the face, or to the pit of the stomach: Baron von Reichenbach refers to the experiments of Dr. Petetin, of Lyons, on the attraction of the hand by a magnet (pp. 12, 13, et sequentes, of Gregory's *Abstract of Reichenbach's Researches*), and after stating certain facts on this subject relating to the cases of Mdlle. Nowotny and Mdles. Reichel and Sturman, admits that in certain diseases, especially catalepsy, an attraction exists between the hand and a magnet; and subsequently having observed, after a great number of experiments, that magnetized water attracted the hands of Mdlle. Nowotny, he was induced to try numerous crystalline substances, and he observed that in these resided a certain attractive "power not previously noticed, and of a peculiar nature." He had observed that this power was concentrated in two poles, which were always diametrically opposite, and constituted the poles of a principal axis.

In repeating the experiments of Baron von Reichenbach with various crystalline bodies, I was enabled to extend them, and to obtain very curious results.

A lady called upon me one morning, who had heard much of mesmerism, but had never been mesmerised. I shewed her some fine large rock crystals, and explained to her that with such materials the Baron von Reichenbach had obtained some curious results. After trying the Baron's experiments with the hands, I held the pyramid of the crystal to her forehead for nearly three minutes; she regarded the sensation from the crystal as "cooling and agreeable," and soon sunk into a delightful sleep.

A large horse-shoe magnet applied to the pit of the stomach or to the palms of the hands or held before the face in

the cases of Mary Anne Douglas and of Jane Love, produce instant rigidity and simultaneous deep sleep. If the magnet be presented to them at the distance of two or three feet in a dark room, they see a beautiful blue light, which instantly vanishes if the armature be applied. These corroborations of Reichenbach are so numerous, that they are hardly worth repeating, were it not for the purpose of shewing that the conditions being the same, the truth of the fact is established by multiplied examples. The light is emitted from the magnet, although the sceptic cannot see it; the light is emitted from the human brain in the act of mental volition, though the sceptic cannot see it; the pointer does scent the partridge, although the sceptic may not be able to do the same; and the fox-hound does smell out reynard, although the sceptic may not have the same quick power of smell in his nose. Nature will not arrest the progress of philosophy to please the slow-headed doubters of the age.

Mary Anne Douglas, a slight-built small person, aged 21, is of a highly nervous temperament. She first came under my care at the Middlesex Hospital, on the 16th of March, 1845, and was for some months under the treatment usually had recourse to in such cases as her's. She was affected with fits, which were, in fact, a severe form of hysterical epilepsy. Valerian and a range of so-called remedies were adopted with apparent good effect for a time, but ultimately she had a recurrence of her disease, and was as bad as ever. In the month of August I tried mesmerism in this case. She fell into a heavy sleep on the second trial, and during two months more exhibited no phenomena more remarkable than common deep sleep. Her disposition in the waking state is very quiet, and very amiable. She is characterized by strong good sense, and having been strictly brought up by a very worthy mother, is morally an excellent person. She is habitually truthful, and though not wanting in intellectual power, is very remarkable for her benevolent and affectionate feelings. This case offers, from her high and delicate nervous temperament, an example of very quick susceptibility to mesmeric influence. Gold, platina, nickel, magnetized iron, antimony and bismuth, or one of the poles of a common galvanic battery of very small power, each instantly produce sleep with rigidity, though the moment before she had been wide awake. The touch of a person who had been for ten minutes under the influence of a galvanic current passed through 300 feet of thick iron wire, suddenly induces in this case a deep sleep with rigidity. Iron or zinc applied to the nape of the neck quickly dissolve the rigidity and finally the sleep. Their

agency being repulsive, Mary Anne Douglas becomes awake. A middle-sized rock crystal held with the pyramidal termination to her face, induces a very calm placid sleep; the opposite pole of the crystal being held near her forehead, she wakes up suddenly. The pyramidal end of a rock crystal being offered to her hand, she grasps it with delight, and soon sleeps; but if the other pole or butt-end of the crystal be applied, she complains of its burning her. And if it be held long enough to the palm of her hand, it always wakens her suddenly. This very remarkable effect of rock crystal to induce agreeable sleep or sudden wakefulness, according as the attractive or repulsive end of the crystal be held to the face, to the pit of the stomach, or to the palm of the hand, I have verified on sixteen cases with various modifications; but I hold that in mesmeric investigations, in order to establish a law, a selection should be made of very delicate susceptibilities, as experiments on these afford results more clear and more decided. Harriet P—— was repeatedly submitted to the influence of the pyramidal terminations of rock crystals, and one morning she was put to sleep by the presentation to the face of the pyramidal pole, and wakened by that of the opposite pole twenty times in four minutes. Mary Anne Douglas and Jane Love are so susceptible, that if one lens belonging to a pair of crystal spectacles be held before the eyes of either of them, one side of it is repulsive or disagreeable and wakens; the other is attractive or agreeable, and induces sleep. Mrs. H—— has often gone into a gentle sleep, in the duration of which she expresses by her gestures great delight in approximating or touching the pyramidal end of the crystal; but if the pole be reversed at the distance of a foot from her, she expresses a disgust and horror at the repulsive agency of the crystals; and if it be persevered in, though she may be standing, she falls flat upon her back perfectly insensible. This alarming experiment I have seen unwittingly performed three times. The repulsive pole in her case does not waken, but produces the retrogressive action of the body—a fall backwards, and insensibility. If the disagreeable repulsive end be continued to be held towards her, a subsultus and jactitation supervene, which appear very alarming; but she has always recovered from them, on the application of the attractive pole of the crystal; and has expressed herself refreshed and strengthened beyond measure. The more usual effect in well-marked healthy cases of nervous temperament, is the sleep alternating with the wakefulness according to the end of the crystal which may be presented.

Dr. Bunnett requested me to try the effect of hazel-wood

upon some of these cases. He brought me a couple of bits of hazel-stick from the Countess de Salis' property: these were recently cut and fresh. Mary Anne Douglas took one of them into her hands, and said it felt warm. In two minutes she was fast asleep, insensible to external impressions, and strongly grasping the stick in both hands. A gold chain was wound round the stick, in the space of it between her two hands. She complained of a burning from the stick, and with evidently uncomfortable feeling relinquished her hold. A piece of white thorn or a piece of fir, which Dr. Bunnett sent me, produce similar effects. The stick from an ash tree produces no apparent effects. These experiments with precisely similar results, have been tried upon nine cases, and have been very often repeated.

Mary Anne Douglas can for a long time resist the will of her mesmeriser, but the determination to do so is attended always by severe head-ache; and if she be cross-mesmerised, the meaning of which is, if she receive the influence of two different mesmerisers at one and the same time, or at different times within a short interval of each other, she becomes heavy, stupid, and occasionally insensible to all external objects. On one occasion she slept eleven hours after having been cross-mesmerised, and awoke with an intense head-ache, which notwithstanding the adoption of all the mesmeric expedients, it was very difficult to remove. I have repeatedly witnessed such bad effects from cross-mesmerism, that I cannot too strongly warn ignorant and rash and unreflecting persons from practising it. Some fool-hardy Irish surgeons have, it is said, incurred an awful responsibility, by each, within a few hours, mesmerising a poor nervous girl.

Mary Anne Douglas responds to the will of any one who can sufficiently concentrate and intensify his thoughts. She sees a blue fluid emanating from the eyes and brain of the operator while he is thus exerting his mind. From the abundant evidence I have had on this subject, I am clear in the conclusion that man influences his fellow man by the agency of a fluid which emanates from his brain during the slightest operation of the mind; and if the ideas be of a repulsive or

c Mr. Thompson of Fairfield has been kind enough to address me the following letter on this subject.

"My dear Ashburner,—You asked me to put on paper my *method of willing*, I comply with your request, but think the operation can be more easily practised than described. As nearly as I can describe it, it is thus:—When I try to put a person to sleep by the mere will, I concentrate my whole attention upon them, allowing no idea or thought to enter my mind in fact, I rivet my attention upon the person and think of nothing else. When I desire to convey an idea or thought to another by will, I fix my attention

disagreeable nature, they will produce corresponding impressions on the mind influenced. Anger! how often it engenders anger in another. The hasty, impetuous, and irritable, how soon are they influenced by the repulsive agencies of other men's repulsive thoughts. The illogical opponent tells me that I am a materialist. He chatters, and knows not what he says. I speak of the agency of physical causes operating upon material organic matter. The enquiry is not how the central spring—the immaterial essence—acts upon this organic substance and produces the effects—the emanations we are recording. Once for all, he who *will* talk of things understandable is the real bother-headed materialist; for he is always eager to reduce things we never can comprehend into things we can touch and weigh, and to which *he* can give the characters of matter.

If Mary Anne Douglas enters the room in which my large helix of primary electro-magnetic iron wire is in action, she becomes quite rigid and insensible in a moment, and, if she be not supported, falls to the ground. It will be seen that the fluid from the primary wire when properly directed is an attractive current. I wish it to be borne in mind, that when the fluid of the human brain excited to existence and excited to leave that brain by the *operation of the mind*, produces sleep, it is analogous to the attractive force which induces sleep.

We have then, evidence as far as it goes that the attractive will of man, the attractive power of Electro-Magnetism,

upon the person, but at the same time keep the idea or purpose that I wish to communicate steadily and unwaveringly in my mind until the effect I desire is produced, or I find that the experiment fails.

"From experiments and observations, I am more and more convinced that we are continually and unwittingly affecting others by our thoughts and feelings. I have tried an amusing experiment two or three times very successfully; I have taken a party (without informing them of my intentions) to witness some galvanic experiments; and whilst submitting myself to continued slight galvanic shocks, have fixed my attention on some one of the party. The first time I tried this, I was much amused by the person soon exclaiming, 'well it is very strange, but I could fancy that I feel a sensation in my hands and arms as though I were subject to the action of the battery.' I found that out of seven persons, four experienced similar sensations more or less, none of them showed any symptom of being affected before I directed my attention towards them, after that they were made acquainted with the experiment. I found their imagination sometimes supplies the place of my will, and they fancied I was experimenting upon them when I was not so. This we so often see in other cases. I hope to be in town for a day or two the week after next, when I shall have much pleasure in calling upon you.

"Yours very truly,
"H. S. THOMPSON.

"Fairfield, near York.
"June 15th."

the attractive power of Magnets, the attractive power of Rock Crystal^d, have all a tendency to produce sleep, and having adduced facts to shew that the repulsive agencies of some of these powers produce vigilance and an active state of mind, it is time to state the results of some experiments made with an Electro-Dynamic Coil Apparatus invented by Mr. Noad of New Millman Street, Foundling Hospital; whose ingenuity and kind liberality are equalled only by his charming zeal for the science to which he devotes himself. Mr. Noad was obliging enough to come to my house with his machine on the 13th inst., when I had collected some very susceptible patients for the sake of trying on them the effects of the Direct and of the Inverse Currents from the positive binding screw of his new Coil Machine*. Besides ourselves and the

^d Crystallized Carbonate of Lime or of Sulphate of Lime act with still more attractive power: in Mary Anne Douglas they produced a sense of heat which was quickly followed by deep sleep and rigidity.

* I take the liberty of making an extract of a letter from Mr. Noad, not only because it is in itself interesting in relation to his own invention, but because it gives us clearly a late physiological view of the influence of the electro-magnetic current on certain diseases.

"My object in arranging the coil in this form was to endeavour to provide myself with an instrument with which I might apply the electrical current in cases of paralysis in the manner recommended by Matteucci.

"It was concluded by this indefatigable electro-physiologist, that in some cases of paralysis the nerves of the diseased limb are altered in a manner analogous to that which would be produced by the continuous action of the electric current; and as, to restore to a nerve the sensibility it has lost by the passage of a current, we must act on it with a current in a contrary direction so to restore a paralyzed limb, we must pass along it a current in a direction contrary to that which occasioned its paralysis. If the disease be paralysis of motion, it is the *inverse current* that should be applied, if paralysis of sensibility the *direct current*, but in cases of complete paralysis it does not seem material whether the current be direct or inverse.

"Now it is clear that with no form of the coil machine can we administer what may be strictly called a current of electricity, for the philosophy of the action of these beautiful instruments necessarily implies a series of shocks, the electricity being derived not directly from the voltaic battery employed, but by an action of induction, and it is, as every electrician knows, not during the time that the current of electricity is rushing through the coil that the shocks are obtained, but at the moment contact between the battery and the coil is broken and renewed. I now speak of the electro-magnetic coil machine as it is usually constructed with a secondary coil of thin covered copper wire surrounding the thick primary wire, through which the electrical current from the battery is caused to circulate: with these machines there are produced two shocks, one when contact with the battery is made and another in a *contrary direction* when contact with the battery is broken; if therefore the object of the operator be to give a series of shocks in one uniform direction, it is clear that he cannot do so with an instrument arranged with a secondary wire, and this consideration induced me to fit up an electro-dynamic coil, dispensing with the secondary wire, and after numerous experiments I have succeeded to my own satisfaction in arranging an apparatus which not only enables me to administer to a patient a series of shocks continued for any length of time in one invariable direction and to regulate the intensity of these shocks with the greatest rapidity and nicety,

patients the persons present were my ancient friend and fellow-student Mr. Lloyd Williams, of Denbigh, Mr. Wass and Mrs. Holmes. Mary Anne Douglas was placed in a chair and a disc of copper in communication with the positive wire being held to the nape of the neck and the negative wire around the instep, the current passed and in an instant there was deep sleep with rigidity. The arrangement was reversed; the positive wire was placed near the foot and the negative wire at the nape of the neck. The patient the instant before was in a deep sleep, at that moment she became wide awake; similar results were obtained in seven cases. The attractive current producing sleep, the repulsive, instant vigilance. Being myself a very difficult person to put to sleep by mesmeric passes, I got Mr. Noad to try the direct and inverse currents on myself; I could have borne the direct current with great satisfaction; it was producing on me a sense of calmness and an indolent, comfortable feeling, which might in time have ended in sleep, but the inverse current was so repulsive and disagreeable to me, that I could not bear it for many seconds.

but which places it in my power to arrange with the utmost precision the number of shocks passed in a given interval of time; and although it is true that I do not with this instrument get a continuous current of electricity, increasing experience serves to confirm my anticipation that it is a valuable improvement on the electro-magnetic coil machine as a therapeutic instrument, indeed the experiments of Matteucci show satisfactorily that if we had it in our power to apply to a patient an uniform and continuous stream of electricity, no useful result could be expected, as he always found that after the passage of a current had been continued for a certain time along the nerves of an animal, those nerves lost their sensibility to the action of the current, and that to restore their sensibility it was necessary to suspend for a time the action of the voltaic battery, in other words it was necessary to intermit the action of the current.

"I would rather defer any account of the apparatus until I have perfected it, and you must allow me to rest satisfied with merely stating that, in my experiments I have found that the length of the wire, its size, and the length and thickness of the coil, have all had considerable effect in modifying the shock: that all who have been exposed to the action of the new machine have noticed the peculiar softness of the shock, so different from the harsh, disagreeable feeling of the common secondary coil. The expression of one of my patients was so characteristic, that I will mention it: he said, after experiencing the shocks from both forms of apparatus, that the shock from my new machine was like that from the common coil 'filtered through cotton'—and when it is considered that in one case we have a series of shocks passing uniformly in one direction while in the other the shocks are alternately direct and inverse, it may easily be imagined that the sensations communicated by his instrument, must differ very essentially. I will not enter into the experiments we made at your house with this machine; to me they were of a most surprising nature; and, cannot help thinking that something of a valuable character will be elicited from them.

"I remain, my dear Sir,

"In great haste,

"Very truly yours,

"Henry M. Noad."

"Dr. Ashburner, &c., &c.

It was as if a small hammer had been percussing the posterior part of the head and behind the ears especially. Since these experiments I have arranged a coil which enables me to give the direct and inverse current like Mr. Noad's, but not so complete, though it answers the purpose of experiments. I had three patients who were so obstinate in constitution, as not to yield readily to the mesmeric sleep, but being subjected one hour each to the direct current, could not resist the calming power and dropped into a light slumber.

These facts are of vast importance, and I believe Mr. Noad's machine is destined to promote an extraordinary change in the mode of regarding disease, as well as in the whole range of therapeutics. Such ideas cannot be understood by those who have arrived at the conclusion that the word *Hysteria*, derived from *Ἱστέρα*, the womb, is a sufficient explanation of the great majority of nervous diseases, whether it be a pain in the knee or ankle, resulting from abnormal dentition, or any other neuralgic or spasmodic inconvenience, and who, practitioners of medicine, shroud their apathy for the improvement of science, and their ignorance of nervous diseases in the mantle of privilege and position: albeit, some of these are prejudiced and obstinate, and like men of small minds, wait for the bidding of their leaders, others indulge in paltry pride or envy, and some few are sincere, but, like timid hares, are frightened at consequences that may result to them if they stop to enquire. Charity must teach us to forgive them, for their feelings blind some of them, while with others the sordid care of their own interests absorbs the higher and more philosophical—the purer and more elevated sense of their sacred mission!

Mr. Noad's ingenuity in devising a new instrument, has enabled me to come to the conclusion that, however the minute structure of the cerebral and nervous tissue may be arranged to produce results analogous to electricity, a direct current passed from the brain to the extremities tends to soothe the individual, to induce a sense of quietude, somnolence, sleep or rigid spasm; that an inverse current passed from the extremities to the brain establishes the reverse; wakefulness, restlessness, inquietude, pain. The direct current is attractive, the inverse current is repulsive. In mesmerism, the downward passes are analogous to the direct current, and produce quietude, sleep, and its natural sequences, while the upward and all other dispersing passes are like the inverse currents, their effects being similar. The phenomena offered by the magnet, by certain metals, by crystals, by the exertion of the will, bear out the conclusion, that sleep results from the

attractive agencies of the brain, and that vigilance is owing to a repulsive power exerted by that organ.

It is very interesting to read back into Locke,^f and to observe the wanderings of his great mind on the subject of sleep. Had the phenomena of mesmerism been studied in his day with the lights that shine so brilliantly now from the labours of Faraday and of Von Reichenbach, I think he must have arrived at the conclusion that the phenomena which so much puzzled him were produced by attractive agencies, and that even indolent quietude of thought with costive emission of ideas were dependant upon the same cause, while wakefulness and activity of thought were dependant upon repulsive agencies. His vast powers of "reflection" would have cleared up during his study of somnambulism all the questions as to the identity of Socrates awake and Socrates asleep. The best respect that can be paid to his great genius, is to suppose that he would not have spurned the use of any of those torches that are lighting us to the Temple of Truth. It will easily be perceived that the agencies of attraction and repulsion have a very wide range in explaining difficult questions touching life. The part which these forces play in the formation and in the cure of disease, leads to wide speculation, and I start the conjecture that at some future day the explanation of arterial energy and of venous congestion,—the two great sources of inflammation and of fever,—will rest upon the same grounds as the production of sleep and of vigilance.

XIV. *Mesmerism in Ireland.*

WHILE Sir Philip Crampton is neglecting to investigate the ordinary facts of mesmerism like a person of sense, and thirsting, like Dr. Forbes, for clairvoyance instead of benefit to the afflicted, putting drafts on bankers in envelopes which he tells the world contain bank-notes, a coach-maker in his own country is setting him and the rest of the Irish medical profession a brilliant example. We extract the following from the *Limerick Reporter*, of June 16th, 1846 :—

"Dr. Gelston called on me on Monday evening (fortnight), and requested my attendance at the hospital to make experiments on a man and a woman whose limbs were to be amputated on Thursday. I remonstrated, from the shortness of the time, but he pledged himself that, 'If I could dull the pain, it would be as much as could be expected, and I

^f *Essay on the Human Understanding*, b. ii., cap. i., § 11, 12, 13, 14.

should have the full benefit of it.' I accordingly went to the hospital, and on the first trial put the woman into the mesmeric state. The second trial I made on her she got deeper into it, and remained an hour in a chair, from which she fell in my absence, and so became conscious or in a waking state. The last experiment was made on Wednesday, and I had no further interference with her afterwards, because I considered myself badly treated in reference to the amputation in the case of the man, which case was the first operation, and not that of the woman as erroneously stated in the *Chronicle*. The leg was taken off the day after, when the patient's cries were most frightful from the effects of pain. I experimented on the man for the first time on Wednesday, and succeeded in putting him into a very deep sleep. I saw him again that night at nine o'clock—experimented on him again for ten minutes, and so left him. I saw him the next day at 11, and had him by my desire removed to the room where the operation was to be performed—commenced mesmerising him, and succeeded in putting him into a slight sleep or state of quiescence. I then announced that all I could do for the man was done. He was then placed on the table, and the limb instantly and skilfully removed without a groan and without pain.

"Such, Sir, are the simple facts of the case as far as I have had to do with both patients—the woman not having been mesmerised or seen by me the day her leg was amputated with such torture, as I am informed, by Dr. Gelston; that of the man so strikingly different, at which I attended, and which evinced the power of the mesmeric influence. I am also reported to 'do wonders as an amateur in the mesmeric art.' Such, Sir, is really the fact, and as I never derived any emolument from my practice or experiments in mesmerism, perhaps my testimony is entitled to some weight, even if I did not appeal to corroborating witnesses of the highest character.

"The first wonder that I would draw your attention to was that of a boy, whose hand received a violent sprain. The accident occurred thus—the boy was playing at leap-frog when he fell on his wrist. Doctor Sayers happened to be in my place at the time the boy came to me, and kindly examined the boy's hand. I asked the doctor if he thought anything was broken, to which he replied he could not say, as he had ceased to practice surgery—but this I know, said he, the boy's wrist has got a very violent wrench, and will keep him quiet for some time. A gentleman belonging to Her Majesty's ship *Flamer* was also present, and nephew to

Lord Nelson, Mr. Blankley. He, like myself, was not ashamed of being an amateur of that hated and maliciously persecuted science of mesmerism. Mr. Blankley said on this occasion, that he often heard of sprains being reduced by means of mesmerism; and recommended passes from the shoulder to the extremity of the fingers. The first pass brought the pain from the wrist to the first joints of the hand—the second pass brought the pain to the next joints of the fingers—the third pass was accompanied by a loud bawl from the boy, and to the astonishment of all the by-standers (at least a dozen persons) the boy declared his hand and wrist to be perfectly cured—in proof of which he seized an axe, which happened to lie on the loft where the experiment was made, and struck it into a block with the hand which an instant before was swollen and burning with heat. The doctor examined the boy's hand after the mesmeric application, and exclaimed aloud, 'That he would not have believed on any man's telling what had just occurred, had he not seen it with his own eyes.' Dr. Sayers vouched for the truth of the above statement, in the presence of a party of ladies and gentlemen at his own house.

"The next case was that of a lad whom Doctor Gore was treating for imperfect or short sight. The doctor requested me to attend at the house of the late Surgeon Thwaites, where I experimented on the boy; the object was to have a seton put through the back part of the neck. I succeeded in throwing the boy into a mesmeric state—but it appeared strange to the medical gentlemen, that instead of producing torpidity in the patient, his sense of feeling became wonderfully exalted, so much so indeed, that if he was but touched with a pin's point, every fibre of his body was put in motion; indeed the lad on each touch of it appeared like a person who received a violent electric shock. I suggested to the medical gentlemen the propriety of trying the mesmeric influence on the lad, a few times previous to the operation. The result was after eight or ten times experimenting on him, he gradually fell into the torpid state. The operation of inserting the seton was then performed—the boy's hands all the time folded on his lap. He seemed indeed to feel the operation, for he groaned while Surgeon Thwaites purposely prolonged it. However, I let him sleep for half an hour after, and then awoke him up. The boy was questioned by the medical gentlemen at some length, when he declared he felt nothing done to his neck—but said he felt something in his toe. The wound made in the neck was at least two inches long. The medical gentlemen present beside the operator were Dr. Sayers and Dr. Gore.

"The next case of wonder was that of a young woman, her name was—Dunn, living in Boherbuoy, in this city; she was declared by Dr. Parker, of Cecil-street, to be stark mad. Her brother called on me and requested that I should see her; I found her held down to her seat by a number of persons, uttering hideous cries and yelling. When I approached she made an effort to bite me, notwithstanding which, I induced the mesmeric influence, and in less than half an hour the girl's senses returned. I requested all the people to leave the room, and have her kept quiet; she then went to bed and slept soundly. I called on her the next morning; she complained of a head-ache and dimness in one of her eyes: both pains I removed in a few minutes; the young woman went to her work the next day, and was quite well when I last saw her, which was six months afterwards.

"The next wonder was, that of Fanny Meek, about 14 years old, her father a respectable tavern-keeper, residing many years at the New Barrack-gate, in this city. She was afflicted with St. Vitus's Dance—Dr. Peat of Patrick's-well, who minutely examined her, declared it to be a well-marked case of St. Vitus's Dance. Dr. Lawson, of H.M. 30th Regiment, up to the time she came to me, had prescribed for her, and found medicine quite useless in her case, but observing the remarkable change in the girl, introduced himself to me, and found at the end of one week that Fanny was perfectly restored to health. I invited Dr. Peat to witness the first experiment which I made on this girl. He smiled at my mode of cure—his patience quite forsook him, and in five minutes he left the room. However, I took Miss Meek to Patrick's-well, on that day week, where Dr. Peat saw her at Mrs. O'Grady's, at Fort Etna, and to his utter astonishment and confusion, the girl stood before him perfectly cured, of which he bore ample testimony to Mr. and Mrs. O'Grady and family, and Fanny Meek remained six or eight months in Limerick after her cure, during which she had not the slightest return of the disease. After she had been thus perfectly cured, I made several interesting experiments on her in the presence of Lord Downes, Colonel Slade, and a number of military gentlemen and their ladies. Dr. Lawson was also present, who assured his lordship that the cure was complete.

"The next case mesmerically treated was that of the lady of John Waller O'Grady, Esq., of Fort Etna, within four miles of Limerick; her complaint was said to be a thickening of the gall, or that the gall turned to stone. Her medical advisers were Dr. Peat, of Patrick's Well, and Dr. Griffin, of Limerick. On my first visit to Fort Etna, Dr. Peat

told me it was a hopeless case, and if I cured her I would do more than any man in Ireland. She was then indeed in a deplorable state—the skin of her face and hands had a jaundiced appearance; her voice was quite gone, and she could only speak at intervals, and in broken sentences; such was the state of her breathing. I remained that day until Mrs. O'Grady dined; she partook of the breast of a roast snipe and three or four crumbs of bread; and little as that was, her stomach was so completely deranged that it could bear it but a few moments. The exertion was so great in this case, I thought she would have expired. She was then laid on the sofa and had all the appearance of speedy dissolution: such, then, was the state of Mrs. O'Grady when the mesmeric treatment was commenced. Up to the time I first saw her she was seized with violent spasms, during which paroxysms she suffered the most excruciating tortures, and to allay them, her medical advisers prescribed morphine, and so produced a deadly stupor, from which she slowly aroused, and was under the necessity of applying that drug daily to deaden her sufferings. On the first time I mesmerised her, she had not a spasmodic attack for three days, and so daily the symptoms decreased. The first marked change I perceived was that one side of her face had come to a natural colour; also the eye at that side had lost its yellow, or rather dark brown colour. I could account for this in no other way than that was the side that the lady complained of all the pain being in, and on that side I exercised all my mesmeric influence by means of passes without contact. I called the attention of Mr. O'Grady to the circumstance, and he was equally struck with it. I then commenced operating on the opposite side, and had the pleasure of seeing a healthy colour gradually appear on the opposite side of the face, and the other eye become clear and transparent. The entire time from the commencement of the treatment to its termination was about two months. She came to town and remained one week, where I had an opportunity of experimenting daily upon her, after which she went home and gradually acquired perfect strength.

“Mrs. O'Grady's illness, if I recollect right, was between two or three years' standing. It may be satisfactory to know Mrs. O'Grady's sensations while under the mesmeric influence. In the first place she was always conscious; could answer questions, but with extreme difficulty; she had not power to open her eyes, or move her limbs, or any part of her body. Mesmerism and its wondrous powers cannot fail to astonish those who are ignorant of its mode of action, but being sus-

tained by a lady so highly talented as Mrs. O'Grady, the world may give her credit for superior discernment and sincerity.

"I have the pleasure to state that I had a visit from Mr. O'Grady and his eldest son, bearing Mrs. O'Grady's compliments and respects to me on the anniversary of the time I first visited her, and to assure me she had not taken for the twelve months any medicine.

"I have selected the above, amongst other cases, not because they appear extraordinary, but that they can be attested by the medical gentlemen whose names appear in this letter.

"I could give scores of cases quite as extraordinary, but not being known to the medical profession, they might not have the same weight in public estimation. The cases, however, which I have furnished, establish the truth of mesmerism upon an immovable basis.

"I have now to apologize for the names I made use of in this statement, which nothing but a defence of my own name and character could justify.

"I am, Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"ANTHONY QUINN, Coach-maker.

"Coach Factory, Thomas Street,

"Limerick, June 10th."

Since then a Dr. Peat has been playing the usual medical game.

"MESMERISM.

"*To the Editor of the Limerick Chronicle.*

"Churchhill Rectory, Tralee, June 15.

"Sir.—I perceive by Saturday's *Chronicle*, that I am quoted as a medical authority by Mr. A. Quinn, to vouch for his powers as a mesmeric charmer of diseases; but I beg most distinctly to deny that my patient, Mrs. Waller O'Grady, was cured by his magic. Mrs. O'Grady was, for several months, under my care, after being first mesmerised by Mr. Quinn, during which period the most active treatment was adopted by me. With regard to his other case, I know nothing of it, with the exception of seeing him mesmerise the little girl. I also have to state, that Mr. Quinn was *never* able to place Mrs. O'Grady under the influence of mesmeric sleep.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"CLEMENT PEAT, M.D."

To this Mr. Quinn replies thus :

"To the Editor of the Limerick Reporter.

"Sir,—I find I am again brought before the public in consequence of a letter of Dr. Peat, in Wednesday's *Chronicle*. The Doctor appears to have a very bad memory, nay, even a *treacherous* one. He does, indeed, recollect to have seen Miss Meek mesmerised by me, and, strange to say, he has no recollection for *what purpose*; and, stranger still, he entirely forgets saying 'she laboured under a well-marked case of St. Vitus's dance.' He has quite forgotten all the convulsive motions of Miss Meek's face and limbs. He also forgets having seen her when brought by me to Fort Etna to exhibit to him her complete cure, which was but one short week after he recollects so clearly the girl was mesmerised by me. Really Mr. Peat is a very reluctant witness.

"In reference to the case of Mrs. O'Grady, the Doctor denies that her cure was effected by the agency of mesmerism, and in proof of that unsupported assertion he states that she was for several months under his care after she was mesmerised by me, and that during this period he adopted the most active treatment. He does not venture to say what was the result of this treatment. On this point he is particularly cautious. Well, then, if he cannot venture to say she was cured by his treatment (and hard would it be for him to cure a lady he pronounced dead), upon what ground can he deny she was cured by mesmerism? It is true, Dr. Peat administered medicine to Mrs. O'Grady after she was first mesmerised by me: but, fearing the consequences, I insisted that the patient should give up taking any medicine, as I should cease to pursue the mesmeric treatment any further. Mrs. O'Grady did give it up, as she informed me, and the consequence was that her cure was completed in two months, though she had been ill for years under medical treatment. Mr. O'Grady and his son called on me in twelve months afterwards, and said that during that time she had taken but one dose of medicine (castor oil). So much for Dr. Peat's accuracy. But he seems equally oblivious upon other points. Does he forget that it was he who introduced me to Mr. O'Grady, and requested my attendance at Fort Etna to mesmerise the lady? And if he does not forget this fact, I think it will be admitted on all hands that it now comes with a very bad grace from him to call me a charmer of diseases, and that in reference to a malady which he admitted to be beyond his skill to cure.

"With regard to the last sentence in Dr. Peat's letter, in which he says, 'I was *never* able to place Mrs. O'Grady under

the influence of mesmeric *sleep*;' I beg to say that I never made any such assertion. On the contrary, I expressly said in my letter that 'she was always conscious;' but I did say, and now repeat, that I was enabled to place her under the influence of *mesmerism*, which is proved by the fact of her not being able, during its action, to open her eyes, move her limbs, or any part of her body. It is not in every case that the deep torpor is produced; nor is it always necessary in the healing of diseases. The statements contained in this and my former letter, I am prepared to sustain by *affidavit*. Will Dr. Peat deny them in the same emphatic manner?

"Thanking you for having done me, and the cause of truth, justice, by inserting my letter complete.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"ANTHONY QUINN.

"Coach Factory, Thomas Street,

"June 18, 1846."

The following are the editor's remarks:

"In reference to the foregoing we have only to remark, that out of four or five most decided cases detailed in Mr. Quinn's last letter, that of Mrs. O'Grady is the only one questioned—so that the rest are tacitly admitted. But Dr. Peat, (who no doubt from professional pride is unwilling to award to Mr. Quinn, or rather to mesmerism, applied by him, the merit of a cure he was unable to perform himself,) has commented on the case of Mrs. O'Grady in so unsatisfactory a manner, and Mr. Quinn has replied so conclusively and emphatically, that it is very easy to see that this case is just as strong as the rest. The medical gentleman has an interest in claiming the credit of the cure, which is calculated to warp his *judgment*, while Mr. Quinn has no interest but that of truth. The case of the amputation at Barrington's Hospital has now been quietly surrendered to Mr. Quinn, though it was first made an object of silly ridicule. A writer complains that there has been too much discussion on the subject for persons of attainments like his. We believe him; but it might have been worth his while to consider whether it was prudent to expose his own want of information by crying 'sour grapes.'

Since the foregoing was in type we have been given to understand, on good authority, that a letter from Mr. O'Grady will appear in a day or two, fully sustaining Mr. Quinn and refuting Dr. Peat.

Mr. O'Grady's letter has just reached us:—

"MESMERISM.

"*To the Editor of the Limerick Chronicle.*

"Sir.—I do not wish to comment on any of the letters on Mesmerism lately appearing in your valuable paper; but I am sure that you will give me space for an act of justice to a gentleman to whom I thus publicly beg to return my best thanks, for his very kind and disinterested attendance on Mrs. J. W. O'Grady, at Mrs. Rose's in Limerick, for over a fortnight, at great personal inconvenience, during which time she improved rapidly, and since which she has, thank God, not been under any medical treatment whatsoever.

"I have further to state, that what Mr. Quin mentioned as having happened at Fort Etna is perfectly true, and also that myself and son called on him to return him thanks. I hope you will excuse all this trouble, and beg to remain,

"Your's most truly,

"June 20."

"J. W. O'GRADY."

XV. *Miss Martineau's Health and her Maid's Integrity.* By
Dr. ELLIOTSON.

I RECEIVED the following from a stranger in Wales:—

——— "28th May, 1846.

"Sir.—I pray you to excuse the liberty I am taking in troubling you with an enquiry wholly unconnected with your profession or its duties. The interest I take in a subject so devotedly advocated as that of mesmerism is by yourself, prompts me to intrude myself, and if you will pardon my disregard of etiquette, and will at your *leisure* satisfy my enquiry, I shall feel extremely obliged.

"Has Miss Martineau's servant been proved an impostor? or what are the circumstances attending her dismissal from service? This has just been told me as a fact by a cousin of that lady, and as it comes to me from excellent authority, (though unable to assure me of the particulars,) I am most anxious to ascertain from a high quarter, likely to be a depository of the facts, whether the girl has been PROVED AN impostor, or is only one of the usual suspected and slandered cases.

"For my part I am no believer in imposition, that is to any extent worth noticing; and moreover so many utterly false statements are unblushingly made in society, that the notice I give to this piece of information is simply in con-

sideration of my author's connection with the family, (*not even, I would add, on account of his honour and credibility.*)

"With the highest respect,

"I remain, Sir,

"Your very humble and obedient servant,

"_____."

I despatched this to Miss Martineau, and the following was the lady's answer :

"The Knoll, Ambleside,

"Saturday, June 6th.

"Dear Dr. Elliottson,—Thank you for your inquiry, which is easily answered. My good girl Jane is now in the kitchen, cooking my dinner; her truth and honour have never been questioned by any who have known her. The idea of her telling a lie is as ridiculous to such, as that of her getting drunk or standing on her head.

"I dare say the mistake arises from a confusion between her and my own maid, who left me above a year ago, to attend her sick mother, and who has nothing to do with the mesmeric affair. Jane, the girl mesmerised, never was my servant till this year. She was the housemaid at my lodgings at Tynemouth. As soon as I had a house of my own, I invited her to come and be my cook,—chiefly because she was ill at Tynemouth, and the *doctors behaved shamefully to her*, but much also from my cordial affection for her. She came last October quite ill, and almost blind, the *doctors having failed to do her any good*. My mesmerising soon set her up; and here she is,—well, busy, universally respected, and as happy as the day is long. I hope and believe we shall never part.

"And now, who can this cousin of mine be! Will your correspondent have the goodness to set the matter right, and refer the said cousin to me, if further information is required?

"If you hear, as I am constantly doing, that I am ill, please say,—what a friend of mine, (who abhors mesmerism) replies to all inquiries, such as "*Is Miss M. well?*" "*She is better than any body else whatever.*" You would think so, if you saw me any evening (after a long morning of writing) rowing on the lake, mowing my grass, riding, climbing mountains, or watering my pretty new shrubberies. Few could say, after such a lapse of time, as I can, that I have not had one day's illness since I declared myself well: and yet my friends are always writing in alarm (*always given by doctors*) to know how ill I am, and why I did not let them know. I think of

advertising in the *Times* a promise to issue a circular whenever I am ill, on condition of being believed well till then. When I call on you, which I hope to do in the autumn, you will wonder to see the change in your once pale-faced friend.

"Jane proved highly sensitive to Professor Gregory's experiments here lately,—on the Reichenbach track, and so did others.

"Believe me yours very truly,
"H. MARTINEAU."

"Dear Dr. E.—I hope you will forward the inclosed to your correspondent. I have given a fuller explanation than you could need, and if my note travels on to my cousin, (whoever he be) so much the better. Jane's *second* cure is a capital fact. I believe the slanders against her come all from ———. He sticks at nothing; and the only difficulty about vindicating her lies in the improbability that any professional men should behave as ——— and ——— have done. I have proof however, which satisfies all who read it. Meantime, Jane is well and happy. She is a capital girl.

"Yours ever,
"H. MARTINEAU."

Why will so many medical men, the practice of whose profession is calculated to keep benevolence in constant play, give such proof to the world, as the numerous anecdotes mentioned in *The Zoist* display, that they had rather patients should remain unrelieved than be cured with mesmerism? I know practitioners who confess to the parties themselves the advantages derived from mesmerism, and even highly extol it, and to the world scoff at mesmerism and declare it had nothing to do with the cure which was effected solely by its means.

XVI. *Review of Dr. Gregory's Abstract and Translation of Baron Von Reichenbach's Researches.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

(Continued from p. 124.)

IN the account which I gave of nearly the first half of this important work, in the last number, I related some experiments of my own, confirmatory of those of Reichenbach, with respect to the power of the magnet in producing rigidity and contraction of the hand and arm, and an involuntary,

but willed, following of it in the mesmeric state of certain persons, (p. 109;) and also in their ordinary state. These local effects were of the same character as those produced by mesmeric means, for they could be dissipated by all the anti-mesmeric means which dissipate mesmeric effects, "by applying iron to the parts, by breathing upon them, by transverse passes over it, by pointing closely at it, or by putting my own hand in contact with it."

I have since had a large magnet by Mr. Henley, of Haydon Street, Minories, who manufactures them for Professor Wheatston. It is 10½ inches long, the bars are 1½ broad, 2½ deep, its weight is nineteen pounds, and it consists of eight elements. By allowing a hand of the patients, mentioned by me as susceptible of the local influence of the magnet, to remain upon it, sleep, or rather sleep-waking, was ultimately induced, in no point differing, like the local effects, from mesmeric sleep, and *dissipated by all the means, and those only*, which dissipate mesmeric sleep, just as holds good with the local effects. I have repeated these experiments upon a considerable number of patients, and hitherto have invariably found the results obey the same rule as in those cases which I reported last quarter, p. 110, *that those only who are rigid in the mesmeric state, or can be made rigid by mesmeric means, can be made rigid in either the ordinary or mesmeric state, and that nearly all of them can be, and in both states, with the magnet: and that even those who are catalepted in the mesmeric state, but cannot be made rigid, I have never found capable of rigidity from the magnet, in their ordinary or mesmeric state.* My first trials were made upon Mary Ann, whose arms become spontaneously rigid when elevated in the mesmeric state, and who can be made rigid in any part by long passes, in either her ordinary or her mesmeric state: she was stiffened by the magnet in her ordinary and mesmeric state. My next was made upon the patient with the cancer, every part of whom can be made rigid by long passes, and who grows rigid without them when her sleep is increased by my placing my hand upon her forehead: she was made rigid by the magnet in her ordinary and her mesmeric state. I tried the magnet upon two patients of Mr. Symes's, neither of whom was ever stiff or cataleptic in the mesmeric state; and no effect was produced. I tried upon six of Mr. Chandler's patients. It made the hands of only one rigid, and this was the only patient who could be made rigid by mesmeric means; yet two of the other five were cataleptic in their mesmeric state. I was not prepared for this result, because catalepsy and rigidity are so closely allied in their character; and occasionally the same

patients exhibit both phenomena. The difference, however, between the two states of rigidity and catalepsy, I was at pains to point out in vol. III. p. 67. The next two patients I tried were Rosina and Mrs. Hall, formerly Miss Critchley. The former had always been capable of rigidity by long passes, the latter had always been very rigid in her mesmeric state. I therefore fully expected to find them grow rigid with the magnet. But neither did. Yet this was not an exception to the former facts. I had not mesmerised them for a very long time, but having always found them for years, the former capable of being made rigid, and the latter rigid as a matter of course, in their mesmeric state; I presumed they would be so now. I therefore mesmerised them: but the former could not be made rigid by long passes, nor did the latter become rigid in her extremities or trunk, but only in her closed eyelids and a little in her jaws. There was thus no exception.

A young man was kindly brought to me by Mr. Denn, from Maidstone, to see, who is reputed to be a fine clairvoyant, and to be capable of rigidity, in his ordinary and mesmeric state. The magnet presently stiffened his hand, then his arm, and then he fell into a profound sleep, in no respect different from the mesmeric; and all the effects local and general could be dissipated by anti-mesmeric means. Mr. Chandler kindly brought me one of his patients, just returned from sea, the same whose tooth Mr. Bell extracted without pain, p. 207, and the husband of his female patient whom the magnet stiffens. He always had been capable of great rigidity in his mesmeric state. He held one pole of the magnet for half an hour, with very little effect, but still some effect, upon his fingers. Mr. Chandler then with a pass or two sent him to sleep, when instantly his hand upon the magnet became rigid. Mr. Chandler then awoke him by transverse passes before his face, and relaxed his hand by other passes over it. The magnet now applied to his hand, instantly stiffened it, then the arm, and presently sleep-waking came on, just as perfect as from mesmeric means, and was removed at pleasure by anti-mesmeric means. He said his head had felt benumbed before he lost himself. A lady was brought to me by Mr. Spiller, of Battersea, very capable of rigidity in her mesmeric state. The magnet presently stiffened her hand when awake, and soon the rigidity spread and she was in the sleep-waking state, in no point differing from the mesmeric. There came also a young woman, whom he had mesmerised, and who was servant to a friend of this lady. The magnet produced no effect upon her hand, though she held it for a considerable time, and had seen its effect upon this lady and my two pa-

tients first mentioned. After half an hour Mr. Thompson mesmerised her, and she went to sleep; still the magnet upon which she continued to rest had no effect. He was sitting at her left side, I at her right, supporting the magnet upon one pole of which the palm of her right hand rested: Mr. T. extended her left arm and made passes upon it, and the arm remained extended without support; it appeared rigid, yet no rigidity was induced in the right by the magnet. This appeared strange, but upon examining the condition of the left arm, we found it was not rigid, but cataleptic. This patient is now always exquisitely cataleptic in her sleep-waking, but never rigid, and the magnet never produces any sort of effect upon her. Mr. Symes lately told me that one of his two patients mentioned at p. 110, on whom (never being rigid) the magnet produced no effect, had now become rigid. I therefore took the first opportunity of taking my magnet to his house when this lady was mesmerised; it instantly made her rigid, and as, in her rigidity, she could not take the hand of her mesmeriser, to whom, whoever might be the person, lady or gentleman, she, during her state, is attached, she was annoyed with the magnet, just as she is with her mesmeriser if he makes her rigid, as he always can at pleasure by deepening her sleep. She said the magnet was very disagreeable to her, because it made her cross,—that is, made her contract up together, retiring from her mesmeriser. She was awakened; and the magnet applied to her hand caused it to contract strongly, and sent her into sleep-waking, agreeing in all its points with mesmeric sleep-waking. To shew the great difference between catalepsy and rigidity still farther, I must mention that during the sleep-waking, she spontaneously sometimes becomes cataleptic, sometimes rigid. If I applied the magnet during her catalepsy, it never once made her rigid: although it invariably did if I applied it when she was neither cataleptic nor rigid.

I applied the magnet to another patient who has now been susceptible of mesmerism for several years. Though her arms are readily made rigid and extended in the air in both the mesmeric and the ordinary state, the rigidity lasts but a short time, and her hand does not become rigid even by long passes over it. In her ordinary state she held a pole of the magnet for ten minutes, without any effect. I made her arm stiff by passes, but still the magnet did not make her fingers stiff, nor had she any other sensation than from the coldness of the metal. I sent her to sleep. She then took her hand from the magnet, and I had great trouble to induce her to hold it again, because the cold was now so in-

tensely disagreeable to her. It is common for all feelings to be much stronger in sleep-waking, and, if disagreeable, to be borne with less patience. However, I prevailed upon her to hold it from time to time. There was no effect on her hand; not even after I had stiffened her arm by passes. She awoke spontaneously, as is usual with her, after eight or ten minutes: and held the magnet a long while, but still with no effect: and she laughed and said it never would affect her. I stiffened her arm again with passes; but still the magnet was inefficient. I sent her to sleep a second time, and prevailed upon her with difficulty to hold the cold magnet. It produced no effect: I awoke her, and it still produced no effect. I sent her to sleep the third time. She had now less reluctance to hold the magnet, for she said it was not so cold; and her hand stiffened upon it, so that I tore it from her with difficulty; and, as in the other cases, her fingers remained stiff and in the same position as when they were grasping it. I relaxed them by transverse passes, by the breath, &c. She awoke, and taking hold of the magnet, repeated the remark of her sleep, that it was not so cold as before; and presently her hand stiffened upon it, and she was in her usual sleep-waking state, and so deep was her sleep, that for the first time this season she snored. She told me there was no difference between this and the mesmeric sleep. I went from her sofa to the table to write a prescription, and she turned round towards me, as is usual in her mesmeric sleep. She begged me to wake her as it was late: I removed the magnet, made transverse passes before her face, and she was awake, but with her hand stiffened. I applied the poker to it, and relaxation immediately took place. It is probable that the coldness of the magnet to her, for she is very sensitive to cold, in some measure prevented the effect in the beginning of these experiments; for any cold substance applied to stiffened parts has great power to effect relaxation. From this time, the magnet stiffened her hand and arm in her ordinary and her mesmeric state.

I mentioned (p. 110) that in Mrs. Hall the magnet produced no effect when applied to her hands, and I found that, though she was formerly always invariably rigid in her mesmeric state, she now remains relaxed; except, indeed, in her jaw and eyelids, and they still firmly close at once in her sleep-waking. It afterwards occurred to me to apply the magnet in her waking state to one side of her jaws. I did so, and her jaw instantly closed, the eyelids drooped, and she was asleep and universally rigid. This fact is very interesting, as shewing that if one part of the body remains susceptible

of an influence the rest may yield to the influence also, although rebellious to it till it had thus gained admission at the susceptible point. I had on this very occasion applied it long to her hand without any effect.

These facts demonstrate a greater difference than has been conceived between rigidity and catalepsy: and the fact of one part only remaining susceptible of a primitive influence, and of all other parts becoming secondarily susceptible, is important in physiology and pathology. Hitherto it has appeared that none but patients susceptible of rigidity from mesmerism are susceptible of it and sleep from the magnet: whether this is an universal fact, further experience only can determine. This, however, I have determined, that patients insusceptible of mesmeric rigidity are not necessarily susceptible of effect from the magnet; for one exception has occurred. A case is detailed by me in No. V., precisely similar to that of Mrs. Hall as there given. Sleep and rigidity are instantaneously produced together. Miss Ambrose called upon me lately, and I applied the magnet to her hand: she presently was in perfect sleep and universal rigidity. I brought her to her ordinary state by the peculiar method which has never failed to bring her out of her sleep-waking. She again called upon me this week, to say that the short sleep of half an hour on that day had strengthened her in a surprising manner, and she had not been so well as now for four months. I told her she should have the magnet again. She sat down, and placed one hand upon a pole; but no effect came. I gave ample time: she held her hand upon the magnet for half an hour, but without any result. Yet her mesmeric susceptibility was as great as ever. I removed the magnet: pointed my fingers to her eyes, and in a moment, as usual, she was asleep and universally rigid. After a time I awoke her, and applied the magnet again to her hand, but, as at first, with no result. A small crystal of quartz held in her hand on the first day produced contraction of her hand and sleep: but to-day, it was as inoperative as the magnet. I awoke her: and then applied the pole of the magnet to one of her hands: but at the end of half an hour no more effect was produced than when the trial was made before I mesmerised her.

It thus is not invariable that the susceptibility of mesmeric stiffness co-exists with susceptibility of stiffness from the magnet. Nor is the most intense local effect from the magnet necessarily co-existent with the susceptibility of sleep from it, for I applied it to the hand of a lady who cannot readily be put to sleep by mesmerism, but whose arms and hands are very

easily rendered rigid by a few passes, or by placing her hand between those of another person. Her hands had not been placed upon the magnet more than a minute or two, when they became so firmly and forcibly attached to the magnet, that the fingers were actually bruised and in one place the skin nearly cut through. The arms were rigid, and, though the magnet was not of less weight than nineteen pounds, she moved it about at nearly arm's-length with the greatest ease, and said the weight was scarcely appreciable. Her husband himself relaxed her hands by holding iron, or a piece of wood, upon them. The iron seemed to have a counteracting effect most speedily. No symptom whatever of sleep was produced. The circulation was accelerated, and she described the sensation afterwards as that of having taken some strong stimulant, though no depression ensued when the effects were over. Whether the hand was in contact with an extremity, or the centre of the magnet, precisely the same powerful effects were produced. The carbonate of lime, on the contrary, produced a disagreeable sensation, causing great trembling and vibration of the arm. The sulphate seemed to have the least effect of the three, and caused a sensation of coldness instead of warmth. In trying these experiments, we presented the pointed crystallized end of spars or rock crystals to the hand. The butt or reverse end of the crystals immediately relaxed the hand and took off the sensation produced by the other extremity of the crystals.

I have repeatedly since applied the magnet to the hand of this lady, and always with the same powerful local effects; but without sleep ensuing.

It was necessary to ascertain whether these effects would result from steel of the same size and shape, not yet made into a magnet. After repeated trials I had found it made no difference whether any of my patients took hold of one pole or the other, or the legs or the bend of the magnet. I borrowed the steel which was to be made into a magnet of the same size as mine for Mr. H. S. Thompson, *before it was made into a magnet; and all the same effects were produced as by my magnet, and in the same intensity.*

Though steel, and especially a large mass of hard steel, has this effect, soft iron has none upon those few of my patients upon whom I have tried it. Yet some other metals have: copper among the rest stiffens the hands of some. I gave Mary Ann the two brass handles of an electro-magnetic apparatus to hold: her hands slowly became rather stiff, but nothing else ensued. The apparatus was put in action, and their contraction presently became violent, and

she fell senseless and universally relaxed, just as when she touches strongly mesmerised gold, or holds for some time the hand of a patient in the mesmeric sleep. The same experiment was made with the same results upon the patient spoken of at p. 182, except that the utmost effect was deep coma and general rigidity. I gave them both to hold at separate times one end of a very large electro-magnet, not yet electro-magnetized. They did so for nearly half an hour with no other effect than a slight stiffness of the hand; the soft iron probably counteracting the power of the copper. They some days afterwards told me in their sleep that they had been greatly afraid of it, fancying that as it was so large it must be very powerful. This proves that imagination has nothing to do with results in them. In truth I have always had ample proof that it has not.

As soon as by means of Grove's battery this was rendered an electro-magnet, its power over each was immense; violent contraction, followed by insensibility and general relaxation, took place in Mary Ann, and intense coma and intense general rigidity in the other: the former remained weak long after she had at length come to herself, the other awoke quite well.

I on other occasions gave each of them this same magnet, if so it could be called, to hold without employing the battery, and the effects were local and slight, even after they had held it for a good hour.

(To be concluded in our next Number.)

We regret that the rest of Dr. Elliotson's account must be postponed to the next number, as well as some interesting mesmeric papers by Mr. D. Hands and other gentlemen, and communications on cerebral physiology.

XVII. Postscript, by Dr. Elliotson, to the Account of Painless Surgical Operations.

June 25th. I have to-day received two Calcutta newspapers from Dr. Esdaile, containing accounts by himself of more painless operations.

In *The Englishman* of March 16th, after an account of the operation described at p. 196, comes the following, for he was unexpectedly detained at Hooghly.

"75th Operation.

"Dr. Clapperton then went to inspect the Jail Hospital,

and desired much to see a mesmeric operation, if possible; but I said that I should not be able to gratify him, as very few operations were performed among the prisoners. On reaching the hospital, however, I found that water had re-accumulated in a case of hydrocele. I entranced the man in a few minutes, and performed the operation without disturbing him. He would have slept on, but Dr. Clapperton wished to see him awake. This was accordingly done, and he said that nothing had annoyed him, and that he felt no pain now, and was unconscious that anything had been done to him. Extreme laxity of the limbs is the condition of this man in the trance; and I wished to show the superintending surgeon the opposite condition of intense rigidity, if possible, and a case luckily presented itself.

"76th Operation.

"A man who had been dismissed cured from hospital, six months ago, returned to-day with fever and diarrhoea. I said that I knew not whether this man's susceptibility still continued, but would try. In a few minutes he was deeply entranced, showing in the most perfect manner the cataleptic condition of the whole muscular system, and its incredible power of sustaining fatigue while in this state. I next converted him into a somnambulist, and exhibited the communicative, imitative, and servilely-obedient stages of somnambulism; and then stripped the man naked, that Dr. Clapperton might observe his first actions on awaking and finding himself standing in his presence in such a condition, and this produced a discovery that led to an interesting 'ex tempore' experiment. I perceived that he had a hydrocele on one side, of which I was not before aware, and turning to Dr. Clapperton, I reminded him of the case in which Cloquet took off a lady's breast when she was in the somnambulist state, but capable of conversing the whole time with him, and yet felt no pain. I showed that this man's skin had lost all sensibility, although he obeyed all my orders, and was capable of giving rational replies to questions, and said that I would now operate upon him, if the Doctor would recollect that it was only an experiment I was making, and that if I wished to make sure of the result, I had only to deepen the trance. I extended the man's legs and arms as if on a cross, and drew off the fluid without the slightest alteration in his attitude: he was then laid on his back on the floor to have the injection thrown in, which was done without any sign of uneasiness. He was again hauled upon his legs, and dressed, so that no trace of our proceedings was observable. I now awoke him,

and asked if he had been disturbed in his sleep; he said 'no.' I again asked him what his complaint was, and he correctly informed us. 'What! said I, have you no other disease?' 'None, Sir.' 'Take care! I know you have.' He called God to witness he had not. 'It is useless to conceal anything from me, I know you have a swelling.' 'Ah! yes, but that does not trouble me.' 'Show it me.' He undid his dress, and on feeling the part, said both sides were now alike. 'How has that happened?' 'I don't know: one side was bigger than the other this morning, and there is blood too!' He added, that there was no pain in the part now."

The Englishman of April 15, affords still more news.

"I hoped that in my absence my assistants would not be idle, and I have not been disappointed, although much more would have been done if the people had not imagined that I was the exclusive possessor of the potent charm; many patients with formidable surgical diseases having returned to their homes when they learned that I was not here. The native sub-assistant surgeon has furnished me with the following notes of what has been done in my absence.

"A report of cases treated by mesmerism in the Imamborah, and Jail Hospitals, Hooghly, in the months of February and March, 1846.

"77th Painless Operation.

"February 12th. Ramdhun, aged 40, had got phimosis for three months, and would not submit to the necessary operation, unless he could be made insensible by the usual charm. He was therefore put to sleep, and the operation performed without awaking him.

"February 21st. Rassoo, a Hindoo woman, aged 56, has been suffering from rheumatism of the left shoulder and elbow for two months; the former is quite stiff, and she can only remove her arm a short distance from her side. Mesmerised—right arm perfectly cataleptic, respiration abdominal, and slower than natural, eyes half open. The left arm was gradually straightened, and brought perpendicular to her body. During the extension, a crackling noise was heard: she awoke in an hour after, and could move her arm freely. Dismissed in a few days cured.

"March 4th. Ruttun, a Burkundauze, aged 30, admitted

ischuria vesicalis and suffering from excruciating pain. An attempt was made to introduce the catheter, but failed. Ordered to have sixty drops of laudanum, and to be placed in a warm bath, another unsuccessful trial was again made with the catheter, 8 o'clock P. M. To be sickened with tartar emetic, and again placed in a warm bath : when he was sufficiently under the influence of the tartar emetic, the catheter was again tried, but in vain.

" March 5th. The lower part of the abdomen much distended ; the catheter was again tried, but with no effect.

" 11 o'clock A. M. On examining by the rectum, the vesica was felt through it much distended. To be mesmerised. This was done for the purpose of puncturing the vesica through the rectum rather than with any hope of overcoming the spasm which had resisted so many powerful remedies.

" 1 o'clock P. M. Slept for half an hour, but was not relieved ; to be mesmerised again.

" Slept for two hours, during which there was an involuntary vesical and alvine discharge. When he awoke, he said he was unconscious of this. He slept again of his own accord, and rose in the evening quite free from pain ; munit freely, and felt hungry.

" March 6th. He is quite well, and returned home.

" March 5th. Puddoo, aged 32, a husbandman, has had rheumatic pains in the elbow and ankle for a year and a half ; the former is so weak that he cannot lift a light weight—to be mesmerised for an hour daily.

" March 7th. A little better, slept to-day for an hour and a half. The pain in the joint is much less, and he can lift light bodies, and move his arm freely.

" March 8th. Slept for two hours ; says he has no pain, and is quite well.

" March 7th. Solim, a Mahomedan, aged 40, complains of severe pain in the right shoulder which disturbs his rest ; to be mesmerised for an hour daily. Slept for an hour to-day ; no relief from the pain.

" 8th. Passed a good night, mesmerised. Slept for an hour and a half, pain much less.

" 10th. Mesmerised. Slept for two hours and a half, pain entirely gone.

" February 22nd. Shaik Golam, a prisoner, has been labouring under rheumatism for a couple of months : the larger articulations are somewhat swollen, and painful on

motion, especially the left shoulder and elbow; to be mesmerised for an hour daily.

"23rd and 24th. No perceptible change.

"25th. Can move the arm freely, and there is less pain.

"27th. Swelling and pain of the shoulder much less.

"On the 10th, the pain and swelling left the elbow, and he said he was quite well.

"78th Painless Operation.

"February 8th. Moodoo, a prisoner, has got a fistulous sore in the right cheek, communicating with the second grinder, which must be drawn for the cure of the sore. He was entranced, and the tooth taken out without awaking him.

"79th Painless Operation.

"February 18th. Gooroo Churn, a prisoner, has a fistulous opening in the chin, connected with one of the front teeth. He was entranced, and the tooth extracted without his knowing it.

"(Signed) BUDUN CHUNDER CHOWDRY,
Sub-Assist. Surg.

"On the 6th of April, I returned from the army, and found several patients in hospital requiring the use of the knife.

"80th Painless Operation.

"April 6th. Gungaram Doss, aged 15, a beggar, has got deep extensive sores around the right ankle, with numerous sinuses running among them. He was mesmerised for an hour, and all the diseased channels laid open without annoying him in the least, and there was no pain in the part when he awoke an hour after.

"81st Painless Operation.

"April 6th. Newfar Bagdy, aged 34, a cooly, came to hospital on the 12th March with a compound fracture of both bones of the right leg. The discharge is very fetid, shewing the presence of dead bone, and matter comes from the back of the leg to the wound in front; mesmerised for an hour without going to sleep.

"April 7th. He was entranced to-day, and I cut down upon the bone in front, and made a counter-opening behind, three inches long, without causing the slightest movement in his body. He slept for a long time after, and when he awoke, felt no pain in the part.

"82nd Painless Operation.

"April 6th. Kasinath Roy, aged 35, a durwan, has got an extensive abscess on one side of the scrotum, and a hydrocele on the other: did not sleep to-day.

"7th. Entranced to-day; reserved till to-morrow.

"8th. To-day, in the presence of Mr. Staniforth, the Sessions Judge, I laid open one side of the scrotum to the extent of four inches in length, drew the water off the other side, and threw in the injection. He did not awake till half an hour afterwards; had no pain then, and no recollection of having been disturbed in his sleep.

"83rd Painless Operation.

"April 8th. Ramdhun Ghose, aged 40, a cow-keeper, has had disease of the right ear for eight months, and there is a fistulous sore behind it. He was mesmerised lying down, as usual, and in half an hour I pulled him up by both his hands into the sitting posture, and laid open the fistula for two inches without awaking him. He appeared to be uneasy, but did not awake till ten minutes after, and on seeing the blood running down his chest, he said that his ear had burst when he was asleep; that it had done so before once, discharging matter, but this time it was blood.

"April 8th. Bagobun Doss, aged 55, a Sirdar-bearer, has got a large scrotal tumor, on account of which he was obliged to give up his place four years ago. He has come from Cuttack, a friend of his here having written to him, that many persons had been relieved of their burdens by me without being put to pain. He was easily subdued yesterday on the first trial, and again to-day. His legs and arms were spread out to the utmost, no one holding them, and I proceeded to operate. Before commencing his pulse was 70, natural, and one eye was half open, glazed, and death-like. He began to moan indistinctly when the operation was nearly over, but his legs and arms never moved, and the half-open eyelid never quivered; the eye retained its death-like look till he awoke, twenty minutes after the operation was over. The mass weighed 30 lbs. Shortly before awaking, his pulse was 30, weak, but regular, and immediately after coming to his senses it rose in strength and frequency. At first he was confused, and said that he could not give an account of his feelings. Having got some water to drink, he recovered the full possession of his senses, and said that he recollected nothing till after drinking the water; that he now knew from the pain in the part, and from reflection, that the tumor was

removed, but he had no idea how it had been effected. He felt a little weak, nothing to speak of; sat up, and said he could walk well enough if it was not for the heat in the part. Unfortunately, at the end of twenty minutes, this man was violently awoke by a tatty falling from a height upon his body. If he had awoke naturally, the pain in the part would probably have been less, or perhaps he would have felt none; the longer they sleep the better for this purpose. From this, and numerous other cases, it is certain, that if they feel pain in their sleep, they have *no recollection of it when awake*. Mr. Staniforth was present at all these operations."

On the 22nd of June I received this note from Mr. Chandler.

"I quite intended to have added a note to Ford's case (p. 209), to the following effect, but it escaped my memory, and I suppose it will be too late now.

"I have on several occasions whilst in the mesmeric sleep given him a succession of strong shocks with an electro-magnetic apparatus, which produced about as much effect as would be produced by the same means on a dead man,—a slight twitching of the hands and arms. On awaking him and continuing the shocks in the same manner, he immediately dropt the handles and observed that 'He was sure that would wake any one.'

Another curious thing happened. There was of course the usual tingling sensation remaining in his hands. This was instantly dissipated by blowing on them just as though it had been produced by mesmerism; and, what is more curious, I tried the same with several other persons not in the sleep, and the tingling was removed just as quickly. I have also tried two other patients during the sleep, and found that one recollected nothing of it when awakened, and the other very little; neither of them could bear a single turn of the machine (giving about twenty-four shocks) when awake."

The following incident may be worth recording. A boy, æt. 9, was in the London Hospital under Mr. Luke, who asked Mr. Chandler to mesmerise him in order that he might divide the tendo Achillis of each leg, for distorted feet. Mr. C. tried him four or five times with little or no effect. As he did not appear likely to become very soon sufficiently susceptible, Mr. Luke proceeded to the operations on the 10th of

June. To the surprise of all present he smiled during the whole time both tendons were being divided: and on questioning him afterwards Mr. C. found he had not had the slightest sensation in the legs below the knees for the last eight years.

XVIII. *The Harveian Oration.*

We have just time to notice that the Harveian Oration was delivered by Dr. Elliotson, at the College of Physicians, on Saturday, the 27th of June. We are anxious to inform our readers of the marked attention with which it was received, and more particularly that portion of it where he described the use of mesmerism, and called on his professional brethren to investigate the subject for themselves. At the conclusion there were two distinct rounds of applause. This is indeed gratifying. Here is this much abused science openly advocated in the College of Physicians and respectfully listened to, notwithstanding the profession have been for years denouncing and persecuting the orator. Time works wonders. We are not at all anxious to refer to disagreeable subjects, but we must remark that it must have been delightful for Dr. Elliotson to be enabled to declare the truth on such an occasion, and which he did in the true spirit of a philosopher. We augur from these proceedings the practical acknowledgment on the part of the majority of the profession of a belief in the truth of mesmerism. The following was the appeal made by Dr. Elliotson to his compeers:—

“It is the imperative, the solemn, duty of the profession, anxiously and dispassionately to determine these points by experiment, each man for himself. I have done so for ten years, and fearlessly declare that the phenomena, the prevention of pain under surgical operations, the production of repose and comfort in diseases, and the cure of many, even after the failure of all ordinary means, are true.

“In the name, therefore, of the love of truth, in the name of the dignity of our profession, in the name of the good of all mankind, I implore you carefully to investigate this important subject.”

ERRATA IN No. XIII.

At p. 76, line 27, for “mesmerise,” read *mesmerialism*.
“ 131, “ 29, for “support,” read *oppose*.

